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Hafa Adai!

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 5, 2018
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Mudwater floods Saipan's Middle Road as a result of yesterday's continuous rain.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Flash floods across Saipan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Saipan saw a lot of soil erosion incidents yesterday following flash flooding that was caused by a sudden midday downpour. The flooding was so severe that it prompted the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to issue a flood advisory at 1:30pm.

The sudden rainstorm lasted from around 12pm to 5pm.

According to HSEM public information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero, the rain was a result of a stationary rain cloud that was hovering above the Commonwealth longer than usual.

Due to the duration of the cloud's stay and the massive amount of continuous rain it brought with it, Saipan experienced flash flooding in several

See FLOODS on Page 4

FUTURE OF CNMI WORKFORCE

'Without people, US companies won't be successful'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Editor's Note: The following is part of a series that examines what is being done today to prepare for the end of the foreign worker program in 2029.

Society for Human Resource Management president and chief executive officer Johnny Taylor Jr. understands the need for workers.
BEA CABRERA

Third part of a series

Many companies are struggling to fill job vacancies—an experience that is not only prevalent in the CNMI but worldwide, according to Johnny C. Taylor Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Society for Human Resource Management, who visited Saipan and spoke at the group's recent monthly meeting.

Growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida—an island detached from the U.S. mainland and where tourism is the economic driver similar to the CNMI—Taylor understands the need

See WITHOUT on Page 4

NMTI graduates its largest batch

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute graduated its largest class in history last week.

NMTI graduated a total 147 students, issued a total of 195 trade certificates, and awarded 21 vocational technical high school diplomas to adults during last week's graduation.

Certificates of completion were awarded to the Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Construction Trades, and Hotel and Restaurant Opera-

See NMTI on Page 4

OAG wants King to take witness stand

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General wants lawyer Janet H. King to testify in connection with her former client Joseph Acosta Crisostomo's allegations that she and her two co-counsels gave him ineffective assistance, leading to his conviction in the murder of a bartender.

This developed as the OAG objected to Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja's order that gave the

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There may be a second act for Toys R Us, the retail wonderland for children.
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NATION
Seven South Carolina law enforcement officers are shot, one fatally.
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LIFE & STYLE
Thailand indefinitely extends the closure of a beautiful bay made famous by "The Beach."
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Local

CNMI, Guam to receive grants from USDOL

The CNMI and Guam are set to receive grants from the U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration after it announced the release of over $10.5 million in grant funding.

The CNMI Department of Labor and Guam Department of Labor will each get $13,000 from the $10.5 million distributed to 46 states and the Navajo Nation.

USDOL's MSHA awarded a total of $10,537,000 in grant funding to support safety and health courses and other programs based on applications from states, and are administered by state mine inspector offices, state departments of labor, and state-supported colleges and universities.

"Each recipient tailors the program to the needs of its mines and miners—including mining conditions and hazards miners may encounter—and provides technical assistance," a statement from the USDOL MSHA noted.

The grant is provided to any state in which mining takes place under section 503 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. MSHA may fund 80 percent of the activities under a state grant program, and the state must provide matching funds of no less than 20 percent of the total program costs, the MSHA announcement said.

Of the 46 states, the University of Texas at Austin, representing Texas, is the largest recipient at $631,175. In contrast, the CNMI and Guam were awarded the least of all applicants at $13,000 each. Second to CNMI and Guam was Navajo Nation's Minerals Department at $29,000.

Only Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and South Carolina were either not awarded grant funding or did not participate in the grant application. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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US SBA to provide loans to typhoon victims

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Small Business Administration will be setting up temporary offices in the CNMI to provide information and assist people who were affected by Typhoon Mangkhut.

U.S. SBA public information officer Cynthia Cowell said that they usually work in disaster recovery centers under the wing of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"[U.S. SBA] provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private, non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace uninsured or underinsured disaster damaged properties," Cowell, who just arrived on Saipan Wednesday, told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We also offer economic injury disaster loans for businesses that may or may not have sustained any damage, but have experienced a downturn in business because of the disaster. [These loans] are just working capital to keep the business afloat until it picks up again. Your tourism may have been affected because of [Typhoon Mangkhut]."

She said that those who were affected could apply online or visit their office once they had already set up the help center. "We advise people to allow us to settle in and we'll inform them in the coming days. Those who are affected can apply online but we will also have people in the FEMA disaster recovery centers who'll meet them face-to-face."

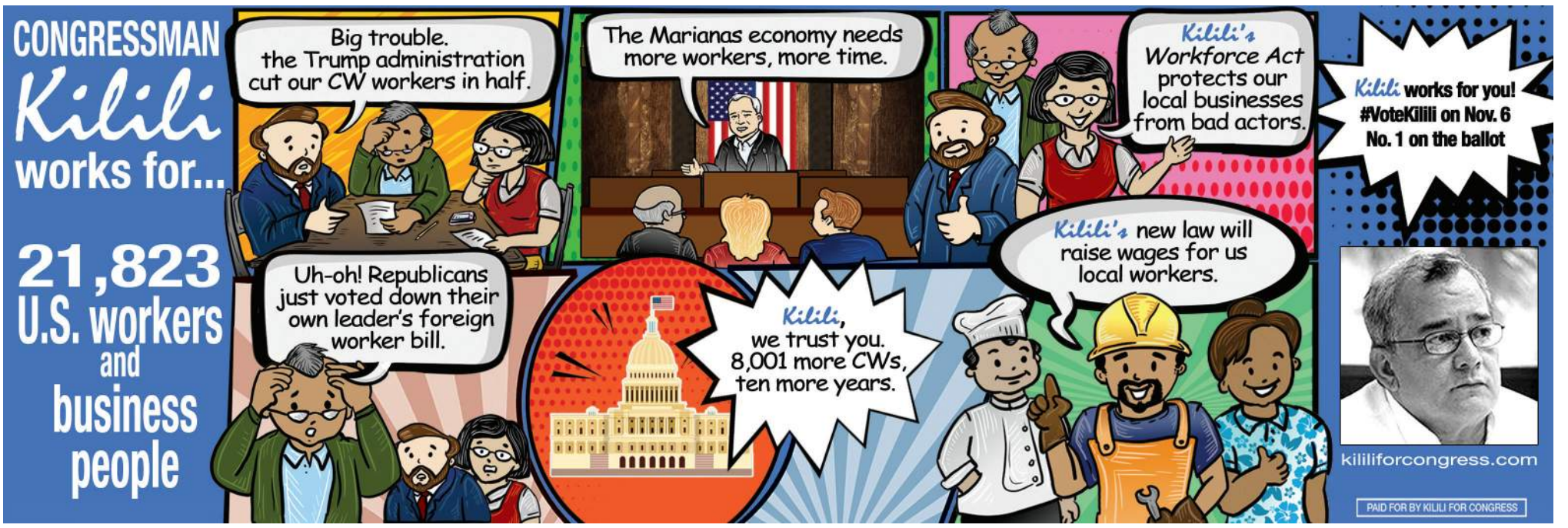
"We will assist and help them get these loans. We'll walk them through the process step-by-step but we also recommend that residents and businesses to first file their insurance claims and register with FEMA online at disasterassistance.gov. Please, don't wait for your insurance and FEMA to settle before applying for SBA assistance," said Cowell.

She added that FEMA is still trying to get all of their staff for the disaster recovery center. Once that's set up, SBA would then have their own personnel ready to assist those who would avail of low-interest loans.

Cowell said that like FEMA, U.S. SBA would be setting up offices on Rota. "We work closely with FEMA but they take the lead when it comes to opening up offices. We may be able to open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center."

"SBA also provides low-interest government loans to homeowners and renters as well as businesses and these can be for up to 30 years. We also have physical damage loans and for businesses, economic injury. It can go up to $2 million. Interest rates are as low as 2 percent for homeowners and most people get that low rate."

The deadline for application is on Nov. 28, 2018, for the physical damage loans and July 1, 2019, for economic injury. For more information, visit sba.gov/disaster.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Cultural expo this Monday

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

In celebration of Commonwealth Cultural Day, the Indigenous Affairs Office will host the 2nd Annual Cultural Expo that will feature cultural demonstrations and entertainment.

According to IAO resident director Roman Tudela, the expo will still revolve around the same theme as last year's, tree of life. It would highlight the coconut tree and its versatility in the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures.

The expo's demonstrators will show various cooking techniques and weaving using the coconut. There will also be net throwing, hook tying, names of fish, types of fishing lines, fish preparation, and spear fishing. Indigenous food preparation demonstrations will also be featured as well as planting to include local medicinal plants and its usage.

The expo will also include a seafaring demonstration where the public can witness what goes into creating and sailing a traditional canoe. The 500 Sails will also offer free canoe rides.

Local artists and their traditional art pieces will also be featured and there will be entertainment throughout the day.

Tudela said the event showcases the CNMI's traditional cultural practices and will be a great opportunity for the entire community, especially indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians.

The event is set for Monday, Oct. 8 and will start at 9am and end at 3pm. The event will take place at the Civic Center in Susupe.

The event is free to the public.

FLOODS

From Page 1

spots and in low-lying areas like Garapan, Gualo Rai, and even at the intersection going up to Dandan.

Saipan Tribune observed that the flash flooding eroded massive amounts of soil along Beach Road and the mudwaters overflowed from the streets into the beaches.

Also on Middle Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road, heavy erosion was seen and mudwaters flooded the busy streets.

According to Mae Ann Grace Velena, who was seeking shelter at the Shell gas station along Middle Road, she was taken aback by the massive amount of erosion the flooding brought and was concerned whether the Department of Public Works was doing something about the hazardous mud water.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact DPW and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality about the massive cases of erosion, but there was no response from both offices as of 4pm yesterday.

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, issued an urban and small stream flood advisory for Saipan and Tinian yesterday.

According to the advisory, satellite imagery indicated heavy rain due to slow moving showers and thunderstorms and will cause urban and small stream flooding in the advisory area. Rainfall of 1 to 3 inches was seen in the area resulting in flooding of streams, roadways, and poor drainage areas.

The sun managed to peek out later in the day.

NMTI

From Page 1

tions Programs, and, according to NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, the 2018 NMTI graduation is the largest group in its history.

"It is a direct correlation to our need for skilled individuals. Regardless of the CW extension given by U.S. Public Law 115-218, it is imperative that we continue to bridge the workforce gap or we'll be no closer to it at the end of the 10-year allowance," she said.

Noting that some students received multiple certificates, NMTI director of student curriculum Ross Manglona attributed the "exponential" growth of NMTI to public and private partnerships established with the institution.

Labor Secretary Vicky I. Benavente was this year's keynote speaker. She spoke of the importance of growing the CNMI workforce through training, noting that the 2018 graduating class is representative of the resident workforce responding to the community.

Adult Technical Vocational High School speaker Karleen R. Lizama said NMTI was her means to improve herself even more.

Partnering with the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College, a statement from NMTI notes that the continuous growth of the institute is reflective of their goals.

"Last year 91 students were certified under NMTI's various programs. This graduation is approximately 37 percent larger than last year," said Jeannette Villagomez, NMTI director of Student Development. "NMTI is an excellent option for our people who prefer a hands-on trades education versus a standard academic education."

OAG

From Page 1

Department of Corrections and DOC Commissioner Vincent Attao just seven days to prepare for an order to show-cause hearing.

Naraja's Sept. 25 order set the order to show cause hearing for Oct. 9, 2018.

Naraja issued the order after Crisostomo wrote a handwritten petition for habeas corpus addressed to him (Naraja), in which he accused his lawyer, King, and her co-counsels from Guam, of providing him ineffective assistance.

Crisostomo is also suing DOC and Attao.

Naraja assigned the case to himself. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho presided over the trial and slapped Crisostomo with a sentence of life imprisonment.

Assistant attorney general Robert J. Pickett, counsel for DOC and Attao, filed yesterday a motion to postpone the date of the hearing on the order to show cause.

Pickett said that "pushing forward with a rushed hearing" would cause grave harm, possibly causing a lengthy and costly retrial of a murder.

Pickett said neither the OAG nor any of its officers have been served with the order to show cause.

He said members of the OAG learned of Crisostomo's petition by reading about it in the *Saipan Tribune* last Friday, Sept. 28.

He said they had to request a copy of Crisostomo's petition, which they did not receive until last Tuesday, Oct. 2.

King

Since then, Pickett said, he has been working diligently to prepare DOC's and Attao's defense.

He said Naraja issued the order to show cause last Sept. 25, and gave DOC and Attao just seven days to respond.

"Seven days is completely impossible," he pointed out.

He said Naraja required DOC and Attao before or at the hearing to provide a return showing why Crisostomo is lawfully detained.

"Creating a return on a case of this complexity with a voluminous record going well into the thousands of pages is impracticable within seven days," Pickett said.

He said Crisostomo raises six to eight grounds for relief, each of which require different legal and factual investigations.

He said while Crisostomo will have a return prepared by the hearing date, it will be based upon incomplete information.

Citing an example, Pickett said Crisostomo raises issues with hearings held on March 21, 2014 and on another unspecified date shortly before trial dealing with whether his co-counsels from Guam would be present at his trial.

He noted that transcripts from these hearings have not been prepared and constitute crucial evidence, which will be unavailable for the hearing.

Pickett said King, who was the lead counsel for Crisostomo at trial, will be off-island for argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on the date of the hearing.

He said King as of late Wednesday, insists that a court order be obtained that allows her to disclose information to the OAG prior to discussing the case with the OAG, so she does not violate ethical rules relating to attorney-client privilege.

Pickett said all but one of Crisostomo's claims relate to King's allegedly ineffective representation.

While some are legal issues that could possibly be resolved without King, Pickett said the other allegations, such as Crisostomo alleging that King threatened him in order to get him to waive the presence of his Guam attorneys at trial, may only be rebutted by King's testimony.

With King unavailable to provide an affidavit before the hearing and unavailable to testify, it would be impossible for DOC and Attao to have a fair hearing, he said.

In addition, Pickett said, the two Guam attorneys—F. Randall Cunliffe and Jeffrey Moots—are off-island and unavailable.

Failing to put off the case will prevent DOC and Attao from examining the record, deny them the ability to obtain evidence, and force a hearing when the most important witness is off-island, Pickett said.

On April 24, 2014, a jury convicted the then-40-year-old Crisostomo of first degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, and robbery.

The victim, Emerita R. Romero, 37, was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan in the early morning hours of Feb. 5, 2012. She was supposed to meet her boyfriend in Chalan Piao. Two days later, Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found her body in a small bathroom at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque/As Matuis.

Last July, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed Crisostomo's convictions.

WITHOUT

From Page 1

for foreign workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

"The CW issue that you are experiencing in the CNMI is a really a complicated issue because, on one hand, what we want to do under the President's initiative is to ensure that Americans who need jobs can get jobs. The problem is, many of the jobs that the CW-1 workers perform, Americans don't want to [do them], so there is a dilemma," he said.

He said that SHRM supported a recent law that extended the CW program by 10 more years.

"Our position is we need to make sure that all Americans have the opportunity to work, but if those jobs can't be filled, we must rely on talent elsewhere, no matter where it is on the globe…," he said. "Ultimately, American companies will not be successful if they don't have people."

Taylor believes that the manpower shortage—which is occurring all over the United States and its territories—are caused by many factors, one of which is a drop in America birth rates.

"Americans are having fewer children, therefore you have fewer potential workers 20 years from now. There's a mismatch…so whatever the problem is in 2018, years from now it's going to be exacerbated because we are having fewer children, which means we've got to sort out responsible immigration, which the U.S. Workforce Act might do. You need to supplement your domestic workforce and we are supportive of doing that, as long as it doesn't mean that Americans who want to work don't have jobs."

"When you think about the eras, we had the agricultural era and the industrial revolution era. We were automating and using fewer people... But now that we've gotten into this augmented space, this new era where it's knowledge-based, people are becoming more important," he added.

Investing in the future of the workforce—today's children—may be the way to help with the ongoing obstacle of lack of manpower, Taylor said.

"In the U.S., companies are recruiting kids right now in middle school and high school to feed their needs in the future. No one is doing that in agriculture or construction industry.

"What we are trying to do is partner with employers who are in those industries that are high-need and future growth areas to introduce their careers to students earlier in K2-12 education.

"We call it 'employment and education'…making sure that students know about all the opportunities available and so we are trying to figure out how to get employers and educators to talk. The rationale behind this is every kid is not going to go to college, every kid is not going to go to law school or medical school, but they need to know the career opportunities for them. There are great paying jobs out there that some people don't even think about because they are not the traditional professions," he added.

This is where SHRM could play an important role. Taylor wants SHRM to be dynamic in the human resources field.

"Too often, HR gets involved in the back end and we are the people that execute the details once decisions have been made and policies laid out. That is a mistake… SHRM will be involved in whatever phase because there is an opportunity for us to be at the table," he said.

"Our biggest issue is our birthrate problem, which… is a major call for a responsible and smart immigration reform, which SHRM is supportive of. We fundamentally believe that not allowing foreign workers or limiting the workforce to just a pool of Americans means we are going to limit our ability to grow," he added.

Beer-lympics and BBQ cookoff at beer, BBQ fest

A barbecue short ribs cookoff and a Beer-lympics will be the highlights of the 2nd Annual Beer and Barbecue Festival today at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The barbecue short ribs cookoff is sponsored by Chun Ji Restaurant, while Roil Soil Clothing is sponsoring the Beer-lympics.

The festival, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, would also highlight a cocktail competition that would use beer from the Saipan Brewing Co. and other local ingredients.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion noted in a press conference Wednesay that the barbecue cookoff would start the festival at 5pm, followed by the Beer-lympics at 8pm.

Official MVA rules specify that a team participating in the cookoff, which is only limited to the first six teams to register, could only be a maximum of two participants: one chef and one helper.

Starting out with provided raw short rib, judging criteria includes how the participating team plates the short ribs, along with its taste and its two side dishes.

First place prizes for the cookoff include $50 worth of festival tokens, two-night stay for four at Mango Resort complete with two pool passes. Second place prizes include $40 worth of festival tokens, a one-night stay for four at Mango Resort, one IT&E beach chair, one IT&E umbrella, and two pool passes at Mango Resort. Third place prize includes $30 worth of festival tokens, a Blu Studio J2 cellphone, one IT&E beach chair, and one IT&E umbrella.

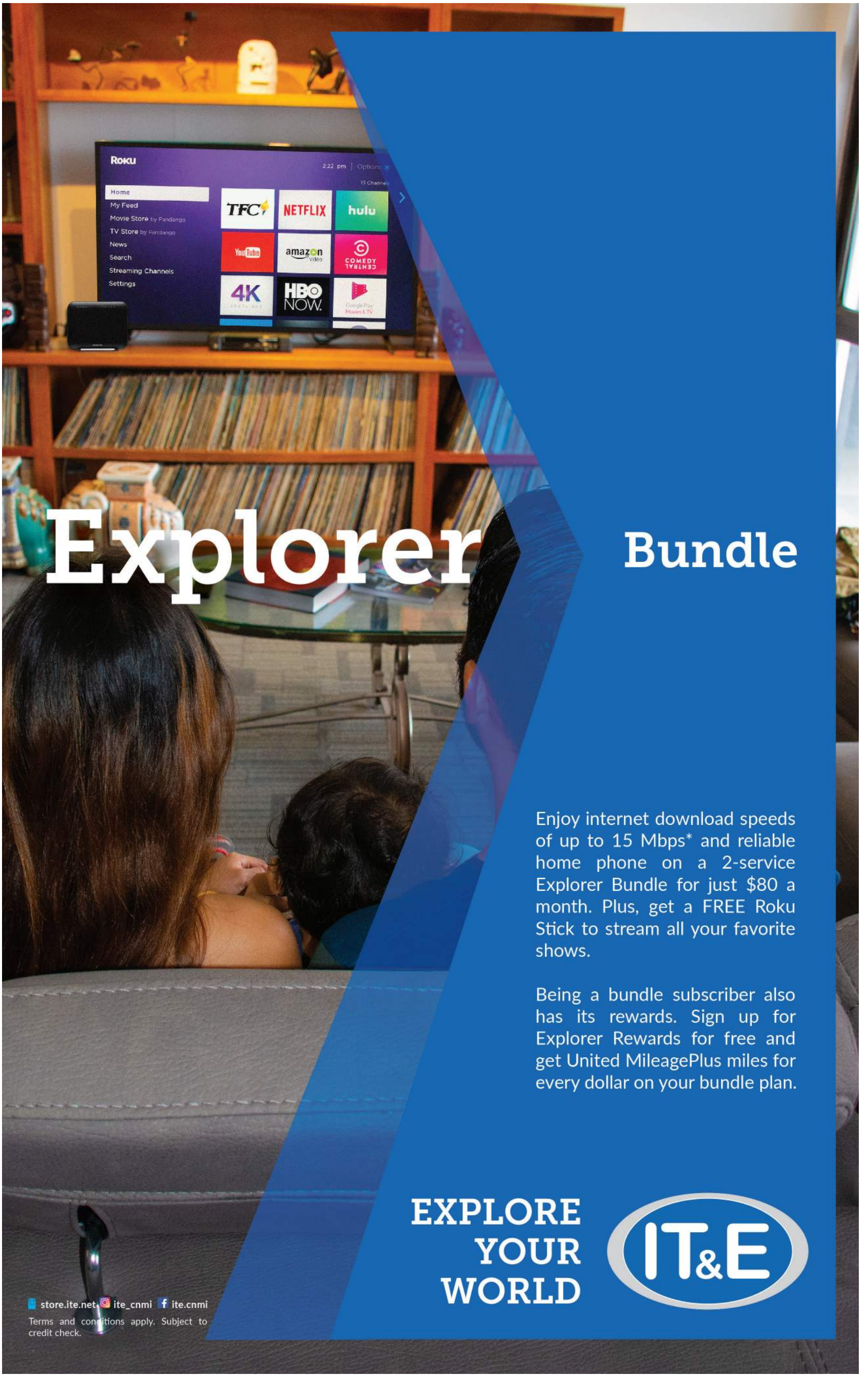
"…Judging for the cookoff starts at 6pm and live entertainment [follows] afterwards with the Beer-lympics at 8pm," said Concepcion.

The Beer-lympics is a race on the "Roil Soil Beer-Lympic Coliseum" at the Fishing Base, which will be studded with obstacle courses, said Concepcion.

MVA is also working with Fourplay Cuisine and Bar, a popular bar from Taipei, Taiwan, that will be cooking up cocktails named after the CNMI—the "Saipan Sapphire," "Rota Emerald," and the "Tinian Ruby." All cocktails, according to Concepcion, features local ingredients.

The festival today is from 5pm up to 11pm and features bands such as Uprooted, Kensington Hotel's Bahara Band, a DJ, and James Selepeo's band.

Age rules apply when buying any alcoholic drinks; 21 is the legal age to drink alcohol in the Marianas. ***(Erwin Encinares)***



Aguon is Bridge of Light awardee

Attorney General's Office caseworker Juan L. Aguon is the first-ever male Bridge of Light awardee.

Aguon was acknowledged last Wednesday when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Saipan World Resort.

Aguon was a caseworker for the government for 19 years and to the Karidat Social services for four years, totaling 23 years.

He noted that his work is rewarding because his efforts save lives in domestic distress, even more so when victims remember him.

"…Victims coming back or even sending in letters and extending [gratitude] for being there at their time of need, providing the services and guiding them through the system for services, is the most rewarding," Aguon said.

He said that assisting those in need of protection gives him a sense of accomplishment.

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director Maisie Tenorio noted that gender does not play a role in the award, but rather the effort exerted for the cause.

"…The award is about extraordinary advocates. He is a wonderful example to other males out there who don't think that they can do this work," Tenorio said. "We need all kinds of people to do this work. We are very happy that [Aguon] has been around for…24 years, if you count his advocacy in preventing violence and working for the community. We are extremely proud of him and so happy to have him as a part of the team. …I hope he inspires other men in the community to stand up and speak out against violence."

Previous Bridge of Light awardees include Flora Danica B. Aguon (2013), Lauri Ogumoro (2014), Mildred Sikebert (2015), Elaine Dela Cruz (2016), and Diana Camacho (2017). ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Ex-con celebrates 5-year arrest anniversary in prison

A former convict who was just released this year following a five-year sentence was arrested again on the same charges that got him time in prison.

Last Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $20,000 bail on 29-year-old Julian Muňa Sablan who was arrested for alleged burglary and theft.

According to Superior Court records, Sablan is a repeat offender with numerous criminal records every year since 2004. All of Sablan's criminal cases included burglary, theft, and robbery.

Sablan recently completed a five-year sentence that dates back to Oct. 4, 2013, and he was just released this year before he was arrested again last Sept. 17 for theft. Sablan was later released to a third-party custodian last Sept. 26 but is now detained, again, at the Department of Corrections. Yesterday marked Sablan's five-year arrest anniversary.

During the bail hearing on Wednesday, Sablan was charged with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

Sablan is set for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 9 followed by an arraignment hearing on Oct. 19.

The Office of the Attorney General will prosecute him; the Office of the Public Defender will represent Sablan.

According to the Department of Public Safety, officers responded to a burglary and theft incident last Sept. 14 at 9:51am at the Seoul One Restaurant in Garapan. An officer met with a woman and the restaurant's chef on the second floor of the Seoul One Restaurant building who directed him to the slightly opened glass door where he immediately noticed a gray metal register on the floor.

Police later learned that there was a working camera that was unplugged and placed on the counter by the entrance. The camera was admitted as evidence.

On Sept. 18, police found a 32-gigabyte mini SD card in the camera while dusting it for fingerprints. After reviewing the surveillance footage that was recorded on the SD card, one of the suspects was identified as Sablan.

The surveillance footage also captured two other suspects. Suspect two was described as a skinny male wearing a foldaway bush hat, a T-shirt, and short pants. Suspect three was described as a heavyset male with shoulder-length hair, wearing his hat backwards above his forehead, and had on a printed T-shirt and short pants.

Sablan and the two other suspects allegedly broke into the restaurant, taking $3,477.39 worth of cash from the register and about $45 worth of beer. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CPA incurs $2.4M shortfall in utilities expenses

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has approved a supplemental budget of $2.4 million to cover the shortfall for the utility expenses of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the CPA's board meeting last Friday, board financial affairs committee chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said the supplemental budget is intended to cover the cost of the airport's utilities incurred in the past couple of months.

Kimberlyn-Hinds said CPA and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continue to negotiate their ongoing billing dispute on utilities, to include water and power as well as other issues contemplated in the settlement agreement.

The supplemental funding request will be funded by airport gross revenue funds.

According to CPA's supplemental budget request certified by comptroller Skye Lynn L. Aldan Hofschneider, from October 2017 to July 2018, the airport's electrical, water and sewer total expenses reached $4,212,097.34.

The estimated August and September 2018 total billing is $842,419.47. This brings utility expenses for that period to $5,054,516.81.

With its fiscal year 2018 budget for utilities only at $2,629,440, CPA incurred a shortfall of $2,425,076.81. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'A cultural center is long overdue'

The Indigenous Affairs Office and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will band together to push for the construction of a long-overdue cultural center.

In a press conference Wednesday at the Indigenous Affairs office, IAO resident director Roman Tudela and DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter discussed the amount needed to start construction.

According to Tudela, the CNMI Constitution itself mandates that a cultural center be built, that the 19th Legislature approved a feasibility study for the Northern Marianas Cultural Center and appropriated $75,000 for that.

"…I've approached the House [of Representatives] and proposed that the $75,000 from the feasibility study be appropriated to the Indigenous Affairs Office," he said.

"Unfortunately, the budget for the feasibility study went through but the appropriation for the cultural center was not passed. The money was put aside and now, here we are in the 20th Legislature," he said.

Without the funds needed, Tudela said his office can't move forward with the creation of the center. "Hopefully the appropriation is granted to us so we can start moving forward at least with the planning stages," he said.

Hunter said the cultural center is not only long overdue, but is critical in terms of salvaging the tourism industry because it would set the CNMI apart as a unique destination

"It it only makes sense since tourism is our industry… There are plenty of other places with beautiful beaches and great weather but if we really want to bring our visitors more than once, we need to highlight what is unique about this place and what is unique about this place is our Chamorro and Carolinian cultures," he said.

Hunter used the Polynesian cultural center in Hawaii for example. According to Hunter, it not only garners loads of tourists, but it is also one of the state's highest paid attractions.

"Hawaii, for example, there are all kinds of things to do in Hawaii…but their No. 1 most visited paid attraction is the Polynesian cultural center," he said.

Although there is still no source of funding to start the construction of the cultural center, Tudela said he has already taken a few of the necessary steps to speed up the process in case the funding is made available soon.

"I've approached DPL about finding land…I've gotten proposals from people," he said. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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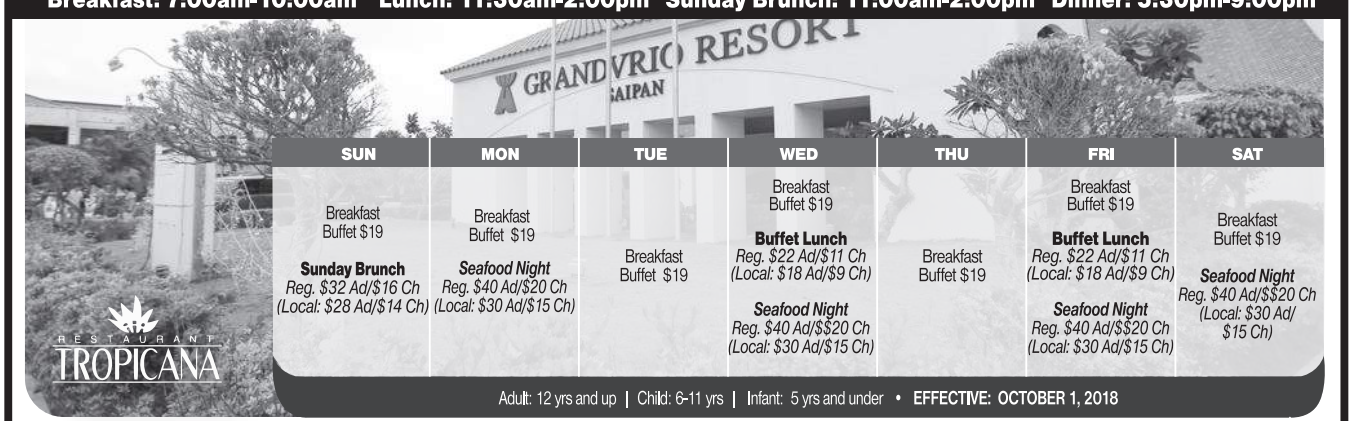
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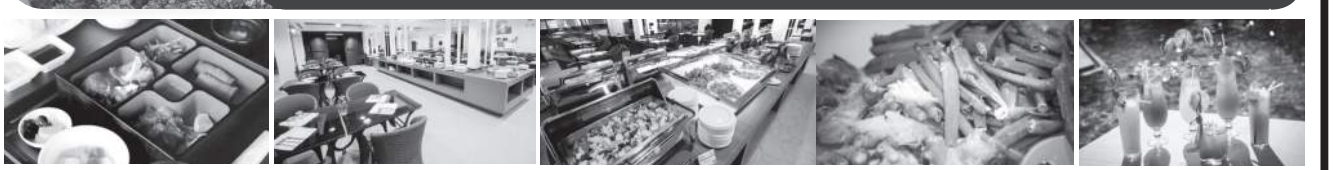
Adult: 12 yrs and up | Child: 6-11 yrs | Infant: 5 yrs and under • EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

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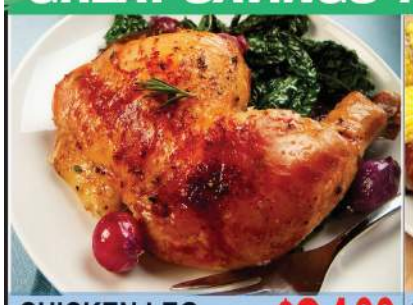

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho join CUC officials, employees, and some lawmakers in a group photo outside the governor's office building shortly after a proclamation signing for CNMI Public Power Week yesterday morning.

Torres: CUC played a vital role after Soudelor and Mangkhut

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres underscored yesterday the importance of the commitment shown by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen and crew not only during Typhoon Soudelor but, more recently, when Typhoon Mangkhut wrought havoc on Rota.

"We saw on Soudelor and definitely we saw it on Typhoon Mangkhut. I want to give all the linemen a round of applause," said Torres at the proclamation signing declaring Oct. 7 to 13 as CNMI Public Power Week.

Torres said when he went to Rota during Typhoon Mangkhut's recovery efforts, he saw CUC linemen and crew already starting work at 7 or 8 in the morning, all the way to midnight.

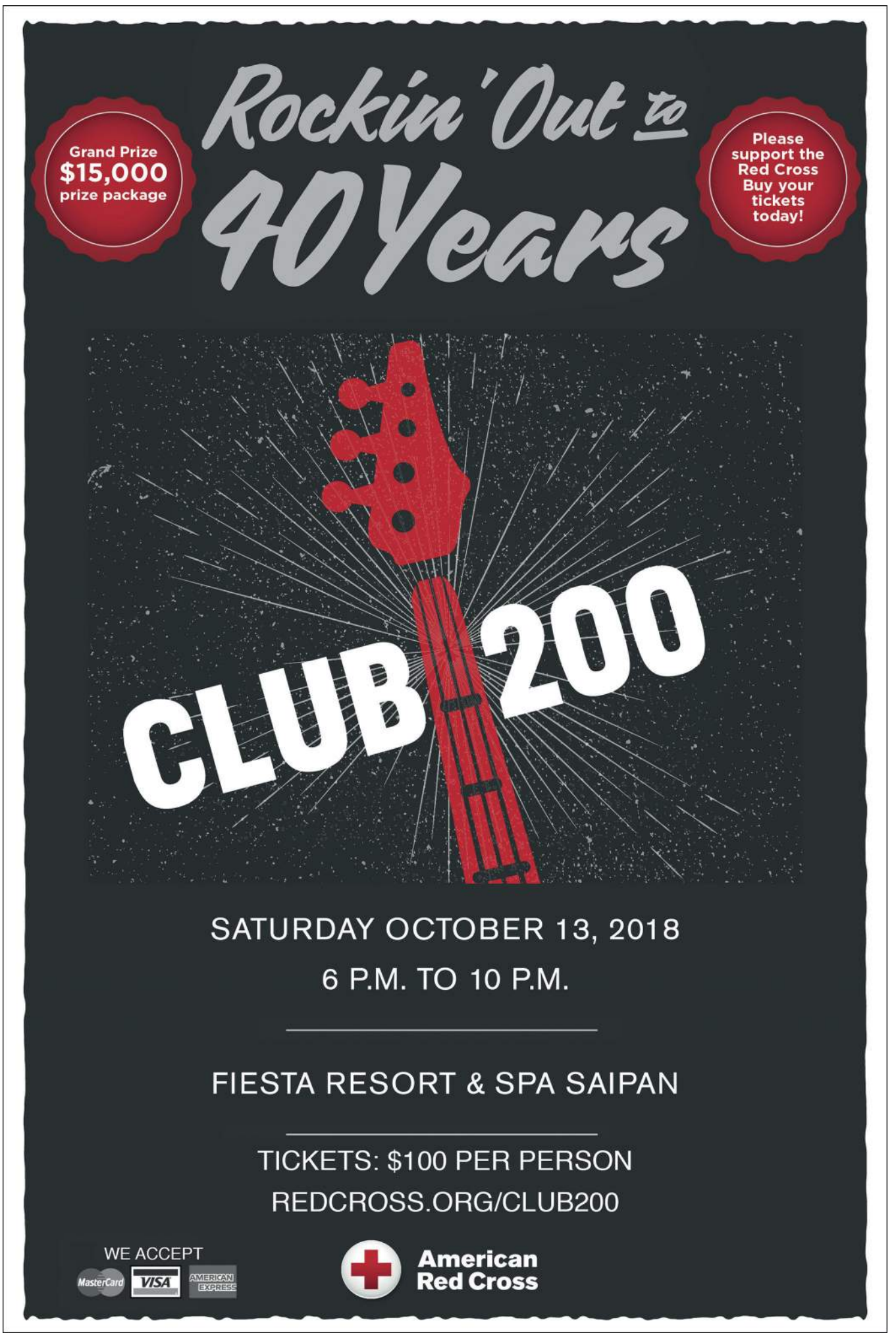
"Really, it's priceless," the governor said after he signed the proclamation in the governor's office's conference room packed with CUC officials and employees.

"When you see our linemen up there, they are not just risking their lives, they are restoring somebody else's light back to normalcy so they have comfort in their home," he said. "CUC, you guys are No. 1 out there not because you restore light again, but you restore hope and you cannot put a price on that."

CNMI Public Power Week is intended to honor CUC for "its contributions to the community and to make its consumer-owners, business partners, policy makers, and employees more aware of its overall contributions to their wellbeing."

Torres said the community celebrates with more than 2,200 other public power utilities in the U.S., through local, community-ownership, and private-public partnerships, to ensure the lowest cost to all utility customers.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said they celebrate this time of the year annually for all the hard work of CUC personnel. This includes the support staff—the meter readers, the line crew, power plant people, inspectors, engineer—everybody who puts it all together for consumers in a safe and affordable manner.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CHCC eyes new kiosk by 2019

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is looking at a new kiosk that will bill patients in real-time in an effort to improve its billing system.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, who was guest speaker during last Wednesday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, said that CHCC is looking at securing a kiosk that allows real-time billing and payment before a patient leaves the hospital. Real-time means occurring immediately.

Currently, the Commonwealth Health Center's billing system is not as efficient, running on a billing software provided by the Indian Health Service—for free.

"The IHS created this system, which we have access to for free. We have been using that ever since," she said. With the free billing system, Muña noted some challenges, especially since the system was not specifically created for the CNMI situation.

"It is a system [not necessarily] designed…for us, so we are tweaking it. When we tweak it, there are some challenges," she said. "We have room for improvement—we know that."

According to Muña, a billing system known as "Epic" is the more ideal option. However, the last time she checked, the system costs $60 million to $70 million. She suspects the price to be at $100 million currently.

"We don't have the money to pay for that system," she said.

The kiosk, Muña said, would allow for the real-time billing and bill-compilation of patients once they are discharged.

"…You can go in, check in, and you can even use your credit card [to pay]," she said. "…It automatically tells you to pay [the hospital bills] before you get out."

Muña noted that CHC's financial problems are not limited to billing concerns. She notes that majority of CHC receivables are actually uncompensated care.

"They are [hospital billings] that are uncollected and uncollectible because people just don't have the money," she said. Some are even uninsured. "We can demand them to pay, but if they don't have the money, what can we do?"

Toves: Mangkhut also damaged Rota airport's perimeter fence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The perimeter fences surrounding the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport on Rota also sustained damage from the powerful Typhoon Mangkhut that battered the island last month, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board airport facilities committee chair Barrie C. Toves.

Toves

Toves, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend, said a large portion of the perimeter fence was knocked down, but CPA was able to obtain resources to temporarily erect the fence with the help of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Toves said they expecting their property insurance adjusters to go to Rota and assess the damage.

Because CPA's airport facilities are fully insured, Toves said that CPA expects to recover payment from the loss.

The damage to the fences have not affected airline flights.

"The only time the airport suffered major setback was when there was an island-wide outage," Toves said, adding that they ran their backup generator but it also conked out in the middle of the night.

Fortunately, Toves said, he was working at the Emergency Operations Center at the time to coordinate resources for response and recovery. "I was able to see what was going on with CPA," he said.

Toves said they were back to normal within the next 24 hours.

Bidding for two power generators for CUC closing by month's end

The bidding for two power generators for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base should be closing this Oct. 29, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho.

Power engines 8 and 4, which are currently not running, will be replaced. Camacho said the two engines were damaged in the past.

Right now, Saipan's three power plants have a maximum capacity of 57.5 megawatts. Capacity varies—goes up and down—as CUC does maintenance work on some engines.

Camacho said the 57.5 megawatts is enough to meet the demands.

Replacing the two engines would add another 15 to 19 megawatts. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Tract No. 22916-R1 containing an area of approximately 5,472 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands office and website at www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. The Directors of Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. are Masaaki Kobayashi – President/Secretary, Hisahi Taniguchi – Vice President and Seong Bok Hun - Treasurer.

iii. The proposed Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations. To extent it and was negotiated, discussions were by Mr. Masaaki Kobayashi. and Mr. Sean Frink.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of boat repair facility and parasailing services.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease extension is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and First Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Secretary, Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. As of the time of this publication, the Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before 4:00 p.m. October 12, 2018 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian. 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku mannånå´i guini nutisia put i intensiona ni para u ma´atkila metton na tanu´ pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum pupblikun hineråt siña muna´hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu´ pupbliku. Kumu mås mo´na mapribeni ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi na pettanesin infotmasion manisisita na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu´ pupbliku madiskribi kumu Tract No. 22916-R1 ni konsisisti kåsi 5,472 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, giya Saipan. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee i Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. I Direktot i Advance Marine Saipan Corporation siha si Masaaki Kobayashi – i Presidenti/Tresuråriu yan Hisahi Taniguchi – i Sigundu na Presidenti yan Seong Bok Hun - Tresuråriu.

iii. I maproponi na Kontråtan Atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha. Para u ma´ekstendi yan ginin manegosiu, i diskuti siha ginin as Siñot Masaaki Kobayashi yan Sinot Sean Frink.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha´ na rason para fasilidåt na´maolik boti yan setbisiun parasailing siha.

I tema nu i maproponi kontråtan atkilon sa benti singku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada´ såkkan gi durântin i teman i ekstendin i atkila mapega gi pusentun nu i bålin appraised fair market i propiedåt.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Ekstendi yan i Fine´ni´na na Amendasion para i Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli´ gi ufisinan i Sekritårian, Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku, gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building gi Dandan, giya Saipan, primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, gi Songsong Village, giya Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokkui´ na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Kumu tiempun nu esti na pupblikasion, i Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ti manmarisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inefresi siha ni para ma´atkila i suhetu na tanu´ pupbliku gi Lower Base, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi´ upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di alas kuåttru gi talu´åni (4:00 p.m.) gi Oktubri 12, 2018 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu´ Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian. (2nd) bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building gi Dandan, giya Saipan, primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, gi Songsong Village, giya Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, giya Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ekke attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilay falúw sángi faluweer toulap wóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay reel falúw kkal, e bwáálló bwe Tract No. 22916-R1 e bwáá bwe 5,472 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghús, iye e lo Lower base, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól aar website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Schóól atkkilóón nge Advance Marin. Direkktoodil Advance Marine Saipan Corporation. nge Masaaki Kobayashi – President/Sekkretóóriyo, Hisahi Taniguchi – Vice President me Seong Bok Hun – Treasurer.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e compliant ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL. Eyoor tool igha re ppwol fengál, mwaliili sángi Mr. Masaaki Kobayashi me Mr. Sean Frink.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw bwe ebwe yoor leliyál rebwe aghatchú bwoot me ayoorai angaangil parasailing.

Pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol óbwóssul atkkilóón llól eew ráágh reel lease extension nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw.

v. Pappidil pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me reel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial building, Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Atol oral arongorong yeel, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng me Elal Ghaloowa, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil 4:00 p.m. Ottuubre 12, 2018 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luuta ngáre Tchiliyól. 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial building, Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól.

$20M supplemental budget OK'd

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, from left, signs a supplemental appropriation bill while Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) look on in yesterday's signing at the Hon. Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building in Capital Hill.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed House Bill 20-187 HD2 into law yesterday, a legislation that he described as simple but addresses important departments in the Commonwealth.

The bill is now Public Law 20-68 or the Supplemental Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2019, which appropriates $20,884,522 from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account.

P.L. 20-68 appropriates $11,534,522 for the CNMI Settlement Fund, $3.7 million for the Public School System, $3.5 million for the CNMI retirees' bonuses, $1 million each for the Northern Marianas College and the Typhoon Mangkhut recovery efforts, and $150,000 for the Marianas Political Status Commission.

Torres said they are making sure resources from supplemental funds are directed to the most critical need. "This is a simple bill but it will address important departments. You have supplemental funds that are cash and we're going to put these resources to where it is most critically needed."

"This is the result of the cooperation both from the House and Senate. Thank you, legislators, for expediting this important piece of legislation. This is what we talked about in making sure all issues are addressed. There's still a long way ahead of us but we're making sure our resources are spent wisely."

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the House Ways and Means Committee chair and author of P.L. 20-68, said the funds is a reflection of what the CNMI is getting from the new casino industry. "I'm seeing the revenue from this new industry to support critical programs within our community."

"A big focus is on the investment of our future by supporting PSS and NMC. Our pledge for retirees that we will protect their pension and fulfill for the third straight year their bonus. Our retirees came before us to lay the groundwork for this government."

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said P.L. 20-68 is the result of the combined efforts of the executive and legislative branches of the government. "It is a collaboration with the Governor's Office and the Legislature."

"The governor submitted the proposals and…what we discussed went into those proposals. We see what needs to be funded and the result exemplifies what working together could do."

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) added that the supplemental budget is not the last as another appropriation is forthcoming. "We're being blessed with additional funds to address the critical needs of our Commonwealth. This is not the last. Another appropriation is forthcoming."

Farmer who entered as tourist gets time served

A farmer, who ended up as a freelance illegal taxi driver on Saipan after he was allegedly recruited in China and entered the CNMI last year as a tourist, pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to a charge of improper entry.

Jun Yang, 34, was arrested last week. He immediately signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Yang to a term of imprisonment of time served and ordered him to pay $10 in special assessment fee.

Yang was directed to report yesterday to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, Enforcement and Removal Operations Office.

Yang's court-appointed counsel, Colin Thompson, had recommended a sentence of time served. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe recommended the same. Both agreed not to recommend probation or supervised release.

Yang has claimed he lost his passport.

According to the information, on May 4, 2017, when asked by a Customs and Border Protection officer at the Francisco Ada/Saipan International Airport why he had come to the U.S., Yang lied that he had come for tourism purposes when, in fact, he had come to work.

Yang was caught by authorities during a routine traffic stop outside the Marina Heights II Building in Puerto Rico last Sept. 26.

Yang admitted to entering the CNMI as a tourist on May 4, 2017, with the intention of working on Saipan.

Yang allegedly paid a person named Brother Qiang in China 35,000 RMB or $5,000 on a promise of a job on Saipan.

Yang said Qiang accompanied him during his arrival on Saipan, but that Qiang never showed up at his hotel room.

He said he only had $200 cash when he landed on the island. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Mayor Atalig's trial is moved to January 2019

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To ensure that both parties can prepare well, Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and the U.S. government have agreed to move his trial in the U.S. District Court for the NMI to the second half of January 2019.

Atalig, through his counsel David G. Banes, and the U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, also asked the court yesterday to postpone the deadlines for filing pretrial motions and motions in limine.

Atalig, 58, is charged with one count of wire fraud—a charge punishable by a sentence of imprisonment of up to 20 years.

Trial was previously set for Oct. 16, 2018.

O'Malley and Banes informed the court yesterday that they have come to an agreement to continue the trial. Over 5,000 pages of documents have been produced in discovery and provided to Atalig.

The lawyers said given the large volume of documents and the fact that a large part of the event underlying the charge occurred outside Saipan (either on Rota or in Guam) and many potential witnesses do not live on Saipan, Atalig and his counsel need more time than the current trial date would allow, for trial preparation.

O'Malley also has another case scheduled for trial in November 2018, and he is scheduled to attend training after that.

O'Malley said if a trial date is set earlier than the second half of January 2019, the U.S. government is likely to have to use a different lawyer.

The lawyers said "the ends of justice are served by granting this motion for continuance and will outweigh the best interest of the public and Mr. Atalig in a speedy trial."

The lawyers said the failure to grant the continuance requested by Atalig would deny his counsel the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence and would deny the U.S. government continuity of counsel.

A federal grand jury indicted the mayor after he allegedly arranged a government-funded trip to Guam for himself and 12 others, including eight municipal employees, on an allegedly false claim that he was going to check for surplus equipment there when he actually went to participate in a political rally last June 23 in Mangilao.

Atalig pleaded not guilty in the federal case.

Atalig and seven other Rota municipal officials are facing a separate case in Superior Court arising from the same political rally. Atalig and one of the co-defendants—Department of Public Safety resident director Eusebio Manglona—both pleaded not guilty as to the charges of theft and misconduct in public office. The rest have not been arraigned yet.

TASK FORCE DAGGER

Task Force Dagger Foundation was recently on Saipan in search of fallen World War II airplanes in the waters around the Marianas. The mission was led by Task Force Dagger board member Mark Stephens, associate professor and director of Graduate Studies at East Carolina University Jennifer F. McKinnon, and Task Force Dagger Foundation managing director Keith David. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 7th birthday to Mia, our "Princess Mini Boss! We love you to the moon and back ! Greetings come from Mommy, Achee, Bestie, and Popshie. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Chief Aghurubw commemoration this weekend

The 48th Annual Chief Aghurubw Commemoration ceremony that was postponed last Saturday due to hazardous surf has been rescheduled to this Saturday, Oct. 6.

According to the Carolinian Affairs Office executive director John Tagabuel, the Chief Aghurubw Foundation is now just securing ferry rides to and from Managaha Island to accommodate all those who will be attending the commemoration.

The public is invited to join this memorial celebration.

Chief Aghurubw, the legendary Carolinian chief and a traditional navigator, set sail from Satawal in the western Caroline Islands over 200 years ago, to seek refuge for his people when a major typhoon devastated their islands. Oral and written history passed through generations spoke of how, in 1815, Chief Aghurubw braved uncertainties to relocate his people, many of whom faced starvation through losses suffered from the typhoon. He navigated the voyage to the Marianas and paid a visit to then-Spanish governor Medinilla in Guam and asked permission for the resettlement. Medinilla granted approval and gave Chief Aghurubw a legal certificate, a cane, and a black top hat, symbols of authority. The chief was often seen wearing the hat proudly, which earned him the nickname "Parung" (hat).

The official approval from Medinilla distinguished him as a paramount chief. Upon his death, members of his clan, the Ghatoliyóól Clan, carried out his wish that he be buried on Managaha Island.

And as the burial ground of Chief Aghurubw, Managaha Island has become sacred ground among Carolinians, which leads to the island's historical significance.

In memory of Chief Aghurubw, a monument was erected on Sept. 18, 1970, on Managaha Island, heralding the "first official annual commemoration of Chief Aghurubw." His statue, which stands today on Managaha, commemorates his achievements and leadership to ensure his people's safety and welfare.

The annual tribute to Chief Aghurubw will include boat trips to and from Managaha, a commemoration Mass, official remarks, lunch, and traditional performances. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-18-2010

PASEO DE MARIANAS PEDESTRIAN MALL IMPROVEMENTS

Submission Date: **December 14, 2018**
Time: **3:00 pm**

Submit sealed ITB to: Procurement Office
Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre- BID Conference will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 9:00 AM in the main conference room at the MVA office in San Jose. A site walk will be conducted immediately after the pre-BID in order to further explain the project, and allow interested firms to become familiarized with the site. No BID will be accepted from any firm which fails to attend this mandatory pre-BID conference and site walk.

Interested parties may pick up the ITB package at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes— September 17, 2018

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

IV. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SUBJECTS ABOVE

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. ***(Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).***

/s/ **BENJAMIN K. PETERSBURG**
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

4 NMC Nursing graduates pass NCLEX-RN exam

Four more Northern Marianas College graduates have just passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses exam.

Balboa

Ebuen

Gachalian

Liu

Yalan Liu, Lahaina Gatchalian, Honey Jane Ebuen, and Bryan James Balboa have joined the ranks of other NMC graduates who passed the difficult exam before them.

The NCLEX-RN exam is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said, "I want to congratulate Yalan, Lahaina, Honey Jane, and Bryan on becoming the latest graduates to pass the NCLEX exam and I look forward to hearing more about their success as medical professionals."

Rosa Tudela, chairperson of NMC's Nursing Department, said, "Yalan, Lahaina, Honey, and Bryan have all worked very hard in studying and preparing themselves to pass the NCLEX-RN exam. I applaud them for their efforts and dedication and we are very proud of their recent accomplishments! I have no doubt that they will do their very best for our people."

Ebuen said her interest in pursuing nursing started out as a child; she always aspired to become a nurse.

"I feel very passionate about the healthcare profession. I also see it as a way of helping my family and the community, which motivated me to pursue nursing," she said.

Asked what factors contributed to her passing the NCLEX, Liu said, "Being focused, having a good study habit, good time management, and having self confidence in myself made me pass the NCLEX."

Balboa said the NMC Nursing Program prepared him by providing him with the knowledge and skills to overcome the NCLEX exam.

"The nursing program also made me more confident in tackling every question by providing the chance to practice with mannequins and real-life scenarios with professional supervision," he said.

Gatchalian has the following bit of advice to other NMC students who are planning to take the NCLEX: "Don't feel bad if you're scores are not the best on the NCLEX study questions. What is important is that you understand the questions, whether your answers are right or wrong. Don't rush, take your time and take breaks when needed."

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus (Monday to Friday, 8am to 4:30pm). ***(NMC)***

ATTENTION

SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS OF WORKERS WHO HAVE DIED OF CANCER WHILE OR AFTER WORKING AT FACILITIES THAT PRODUCE HIGH POWER RADIATION MICROWAVES LIKE BIG SATELLITE DISHES OR HIGH TENSION POWER LINES OR NEARBY SITES.

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‘Marianas waters excellent place for training’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

F/A 18 Hornet fighter jets rest at the flight deck after their daiky exercise last Wednesday at the USS Ronald Reagan supercarrier.

USS *RONALD REAGAN*— Rear Adm. Karl Thomas said they usually move around the Western Pacific Theater near the waters of the Marianas, as the area is an excellent place to hold joint trainings with U.S. military forces.

Thomas heads the U.S. Navy’s largest battle group that has the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) as its flagship. The Combined Task Force 70 and Carrier Strike Group 5 are homeported at the Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan.

“We move around the Western Pacific Theater and we also go around to other theaters. But having a fully deployed Naval force allows us to get to places quickly. We like coming here to Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota,” Thomas told members of the media who had the chance to go aboard the Nimitz-class nuclear-powered super carrier on Wednesday.

A theater, in warfare, is an area where military exercises occur including airspace, and land and sea areas that have the potential of being involved in future war operations.

Thomas said the waters in the Marianas are an excellent space for training. “It is great for these types of operation that we do, that require hundreds of miles of space. It has a lot of airspace and a great place to do training. We can have joint training exercises with the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps. Plus, the sailors like the ports here. They enjoy Saipan and Guam.”

He added that they just finished with Exercise Valiant Shield, a U.S.-only exercise they conduct with the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, and the Navy. “You can imagine getting all these capabilities together and working together as a team. It takes practice. So when we bring all of them into this area, some play the bad guys and some the good team. We play against each other [and] experience tactics and techniques that increase our capabilities.”

Aside from the USS *Ronald Reagan*, more than 100 different types of aircraft—used for war games, search and rescue operations, and relief—cruisers, and destroyers are also under the carrier strike group.

The carrier strike group always practices for expected and unexpected scenarios. “This…is to provide options to our national leadership, to allow us to help other nations, and to enforce the laws of the sea. This is a very versatile group of ships and aircraft that go where we are needed.”

Half the year, the more than 5,000 officers and crew of the strike group spend their time at sea. “Half the year we are at port but we tend to break it up and move it a little bit. We try to be unpredictable. We go where we are needed and we spent quite some time at sea. That’s what we are needed to do.”

Thomas said his strike group was also at the coast of Rota and Tinian when Typhoon Mangkhut hit the CNMI. “It was the [USS] *Wasp* that was a lot closer to them. The *Wasp* was capable of helping those islands but we also provided some of our helicopters.”

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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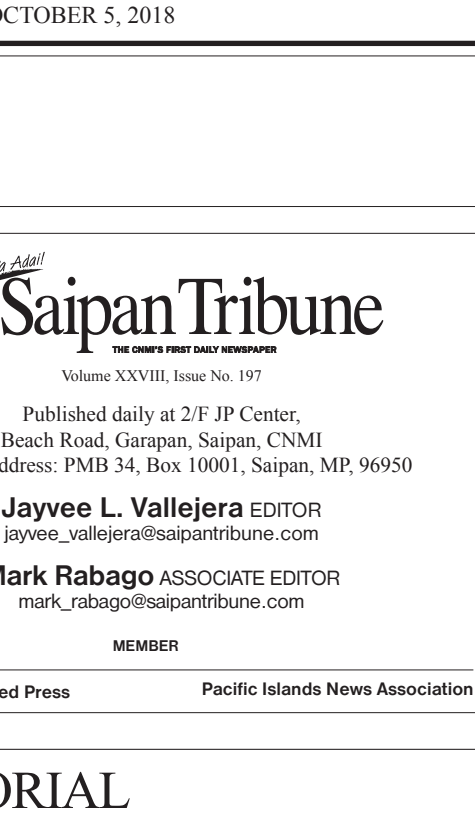
EDITORIAL

Why the extent of Kavanaugh's youthful drinking matters

In categorically denying that he sexually assaulted Christine Blasey Ford more than 30 years ago, Brett Kavanaugh not only outrageously attacked his accusers as part of a vast left-wing conspiracy bent on avenging the Clintons.



He also insisted he never, ever had so much to drink that his memory of carousing was lost in total or in part.

It's an assertion the FBI must probe as it reinvestigates a previously unexplored patch of his personal history.

This is not a temperance inquisition; it is a crucial credibility test.

"That never happened," he told Fox News when asked if he ever consumed so much alcohol, he forgot some or all of the previous night. When Sen. Amy Klobuchar put the same question to him last week, Kavanaugh, under oath, shot back: "I don't know. Have you?" Separately, he testified that he had never "blacked out," that "that's the allegation," and "that's wrong."

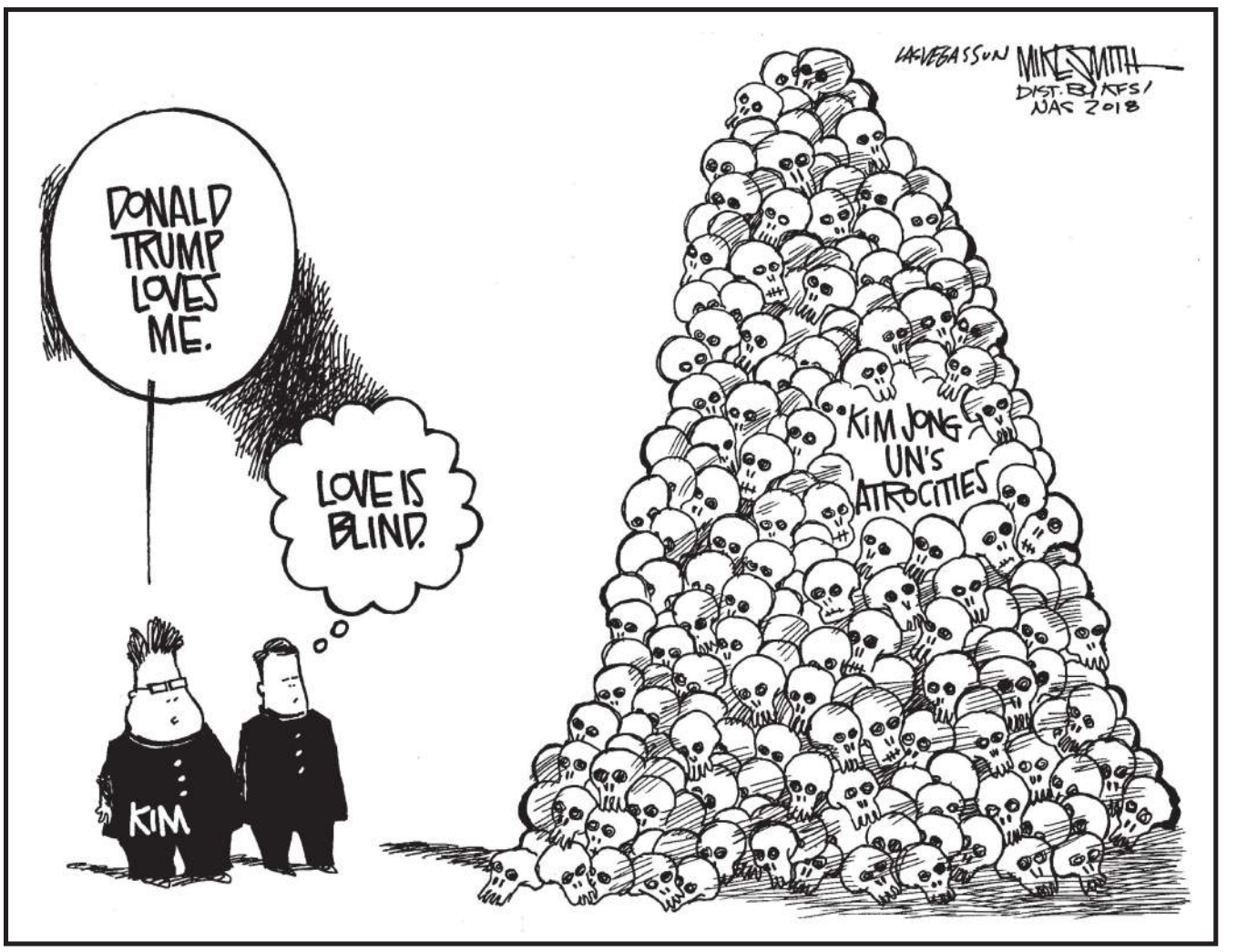
Actually, that's not the allegation. Ford, in her initial letter, claimed that the night she says Kavanaugh attacked her, he was "highly inebriated." In her Senate testimony, she said Kavanaugh was "visibly drunk."

The accuracy or persistence of memory is not defined by whether or not one literally lost consciousness. Millions of people who've had two or three too many have been confronted, the morning after, with revelations of behavior they retrospectively regret.

Ford tells a detailed story about who assaulted her and how, although she doesn't remember everything about the incident.

As nonpartisan investigators gather string, they must hear from high school and college classmates who say Kavanaugh

See KAVANAUGH'S on Next Page



The robber barons are back

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

WASHINGTON—What we are living through is the re-corporatization of America.

The days of the robber barons have returned.

When asbestos became a miracle fire-retardant, insulating building material, evidence mounted that if fine asbestos fibers lodged in the lungs, asbestos could be a killer. For years, industry and government worked together to quash the evidence. Workers died.

When copper mines and coal mines created vast toxic waste dumps, polluted groundwater and carved giant, ugly scars in the landscape, industry bought elected officials to get out from under responsibility. Workers died.

American history is full of similar examples of conspiracies between industry and elected officials at all levels. Federal loans, subsidies and tax breaks have created and continue to build huge amounts of private wealth.

State legislatures, Congress, the White House and dozens of judges have been bought by titans of industry, domestic and foreign, which use the guise of ideology to cover the oldest of motives – money.

The perversion of democracy is being used to protect the interests of profit-making. It's not about listening to the will of the people; it is about creating the will of the people, using ideology, such as opposition to abortion, to elect power brokers to do the will of the nation's most powerful.

Individuals are limited in how much in campaign contributions they may give to any candidate in the course of an election cycle. Because of the landmark Supreme Court decision in Citizens United, invisible "dark money" groups give millions to influence elections in other states. Mailers. Telephone calls. TV ads.

Often, an unbought candidate is targeted by untruthful smears just before an election with no chance to set the record straight. The candidate loses. The power brokers get the candidate they want to do their bidding. Legalized bribery.

The real source of such money – under the guise of a patriotic-sounding front group—is not and does not have to be disclosed.

Crowds of already unhappy voters are bent to the will of the officials with the loudest megaphones, willing to distort the truth to their own advantage. Gradually, individuals become powerless and unheard, marginalized.

The results:

The scientists and institutional memory of regulatory agencies are disappearing. Corporations are unfettered from regulations; the playing field is no longer level. Monopolies, irreparable environmental damage and unfair treatment of employees are rampant.

The world sees more frequent and horrific examples of climate change—extreme weather patterns get more extreme. Droughts in once fertile lands. Flooding in once stable cities. In America, climate change is no longer recognized by the federal government as a global threat. Data has been erased. Scientists, fired. Regulations weakened or unenforced.

Tax laws have been changed permanently to benefit the wealthy and big business, with only a few paltry, temporary giveaways to individuals, at a cost to taxpayers $1.5 trillion. Congress is working to give even more tax breaks for the richest of the rich. Fixing infrastructure is back-burnered.

The Federal Election Commission no longer punishes candidates who break campaign finance laws.

The Federal Communications Commission rules that the fastest Internet speed is reserved for the rich and powerful.

The Interior Department encourages energy companies to ravage once pristine public lands. Drilling is permitted in once preserved wildlife areas and off the coasts of beaches.

The health care industry is monstrous. Millions find access to medical care difficult and expensive; care is not considered a right, but a privilege for those who can afford it.

The Department of Justice no longer considers protection of civil and voting rights to be a priority. Investigations cease.

The FBI does the bidding of a grifter who inherited hundreds of millions of dollars, a con artist whose goal is to use the nation's institutions to get richer. Revenge is sanctioned at the highest levels. The rule of law is dismissed. The pardon power is used frivolously.

Dictators accused of killing their own people are lauded. A snarling, partisan federal judge argues no president can be prosecuted. Tax fraud escalates; the IRS is defanged. Women are dismissed as lacking credibility. Provable lies are the coin of the realm.

We are moving, seemingly irrevocably, to a government of the rich, by the rich and for the rich...

Unless voters give voice to their outrage and take back their government in November.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Can you hear me now?

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

On Sept. 21 I ran a column on the SOHO (Small Office Home Office) front, a realm that is common on Saipan. I'm happy to follow up with an item that I didn't mention in that column for the simple reason that I hadn't solved it yet. The problem was finding a worthy headset that would let me use my cell phone hands-free. It has finally been solved.

I don't spend much time on the phone, but when I do I often want to take notes, thumb through reference materials, and so on. At some point a long time ago I bought a Bluetooth headset to handle the hands-free angle. That thing was, however, way too finicky to trust. I decided to get a "wired" headset, one that would plug into the phone's 3.5mm jack.

That's a common size of jack, but not all phones use it.

Anyway, there are many designs of headsets out there. I'd never suggest that one approach will suit everyone's needs and preferences. As for my preferences, I wanted an old-fashioned sort of headset that covers both ears and has a boom microphone. That's not a super-diminutive design but it's ideal for sitting at my desk or on my beach chair. Not that those are always two different things.

Anyway, you'd think the headset gig would just be a minor errand, but it turned into a doggone toothache of a process. Nothing that I tried was worth a darn. This routine dragged on for several months.

One of my pals was aware of my struggles with this mission, probably because I started griping about it incessantly. Just to stop the griping he sent me the same type of phone headset that he uses. He's a real pro in the phone realm and uses his phone all the time. Upon receiving the package, however, I could not bear to open the product's box. That thing cost hundreds of dollars. This was overkill. I don't particularly like phones, so I refuse to feed mine anything gourmet.

So I sent the headset back to my friend, thus making me look like an ingrate on top of being a griper. I am still catching flak for that episode.

I decided to give this idea one more try before giving up entirely. My final shot, and my only successful shot, was a product called the "Mpow 071" headset. It was about $22. If you happen to share my preference for this style of headset you'll want to know about this product. Having gone through so many lousy ones, I am extra-appreciative of its competence.

The headset is attached to a 4-ft. long cable that has a single 3.5mm plug at the end. It can also be connected to a computer via a USB plug. This is done by plugging the 3.5mm plug into a pod that's roughly the size of a Tic Tac box. The outer side of the pod is attached to a 4-ft. cable with a USB plug at the end. So this gives you about 8-ft. run of cable between you and your computer, which is more than enough for any need that I can think of.

As for the pod, it has four buttons: An on/off button for the mic, an on/off button for the audio, a volume-up button for audio, and a volume-down button for audio. You can therefore adjust these parameters without having to touch your computer. If you use Skype or something similar, this would be very convenient.

As for the mic's on/off button on the pod, it is illuminated so you can see its status (blue for on, red for off).

I tested the quality of the mic by making voice recordings on two devices. One was my phone via the 3.5mm phone plug. The other was via my computer via the USB plug. The quality in both cases was excellent. I went to a moderately-noisy cafe and ran the same tests. The background noise was dampened effectively and the voice came through strong.

The headset is reasonably comfortable, although I don't go long spans of time on the phone so I can't offer a calling-center scale of experience with it. Its padding on the top, where the cross-member rests on your noggin, is fair. Its padding on the ears is very good.

The ear pieces swivel (castering like a shopping cart's front wheels) so the headset can take a flat profile for packing.

I seldom listen to music on headsets, but, for my simple needs this headset is certainly up to the challenge.

Anyway, this nagging problem has been solved. Victories don't come easy in the SOHO world, so I'm always happy to report any good news I can find.

KAVANAUGH'S

From Page 14

was frequently inebriated, and who can characterize his behavior toward the opposite sex when severely under the influence.

Let no one pretend the fact that a young man was drunk, or even very drunk very often, settles the question of whether he ever tried to hurt anyone.

But in lieu of physical evidence, and faced with a woman's persuasive account of being victimized, and given Kavanaugh's unequivocal denials, the public and the Senate must have the facts necessary to make a difficult integrity judgment.

(c)2018 *New York Daily News*

Prime Amazon: In praise of the internet giant's $15 hourly wage

Henry Ford revolutionized mass production, churning out Model Ts by the millions. In 1914, Ford also changed work in America forever by paying employees the staggering sum of $5 a day, more than double the going rate.

His auto plants had become so efficient _ and so profitable _ that Ford Motor could well afford a fin a day. The higher pay gave the company a loyal workforce, with money in their pockets to maybe even buy a Ford.

Jeff Bezos revolutionized mass distribution of books and, well, everything else, churning out billions of sales on Amazon. While embracing automation wherever possible, like Ford before him, he has now advanced the working stiff by setting a new $15-an-hour minimum wage for his quarter-million employees.

Multiply that across 40 hours per week, 50 weeks a year: It's $30,000.

Good going to Bezos, the world's richest man, who is plowing money back into the most important part of his the money-making machine, the humans who keep it going.

(c)2018 *New York Daily News*

At dawn in paradise

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Between here and Washington I've bookmarked credible online national and regional dailies, foundations, and the two local papers to secure a day's view of unfolding events.

Unfortunate how national issue have been politicized and weaponized, derailing reason and civility—the treasured aspects of healthy debates.

Domestically, the political contest here should pick up heavy decibels going into the final week of this month. Moreover, rumors abound that big bucks would play a big role in the election. It creates a case of self-betrayal versus lying where the attractive option for the voter is the latter.

The sum of $150 to $300 is more than sufficient to turn a voter against his will. The only thing that matters is his largess, not the collective future of his people. Would like to know who's paying and how much so I could prepare my Christmas stocking for my share of the loot.

Remember the $1 million free utilities in the last election? Would this be repeated or is it an old trick? Or has the firm come up with something better?

Be that as it may, there are local and federal laws against vote buying. Punishment is fairly severe, in addition to all the unsolicited negative publicity that comes with it. Take note: Authorities are listening and watching!

I approach the Washington contest from the standpoint of the larger picture transcending political ambition. Seniority is an issue to guard given its validity pushing NMI interest in the U.S. Congress. Kilili has the requisite credentials, plus he's done well for the NMI.

Matters: You peep into basic issues like healthcare if there had been major strides beyond its restful ICU unit. None! You can't blame management for it has to contend with some $13 million in the hole. We ask how much was it given under the fiscal year 2019 budget. It needs millions of dollars.

■■■

The number of employees on the poverty income bracket is an issue that we need to address and hopefully secure an understanding of the whys. Is it predicated on the lack of healthy private industry expansion or a combination of a set of facts? It is bothersome and leadership must probe it to the hilt. You can't leave employees in this category to suffer from your obvious negligence!

■■■

Again, we see the reassertion of an improving economy that is supposed to increase wages and salaries in subsequent months. There's nothing up that alley. So where did this improvement go? Or is the concept one that is completely misunderstood and have been spouted loosely too?

Income: The minimum wage here is now $7.25 an hour, it was trumpeted in the news. It instantly prompts the query: what's the strength of the dollar? Isn't it $0.33, therefore the minimum wage is realistically at $2.31 an hour?

The process may be cumbersome but it's time to address the "living wage" issue that takes into account the actual cost of living on the islands. It we arrive at an established amount I'm sure the next journey is its attainment. Could we navigate the treacherous waters we often refer to as "Da `Kanamee?"

Our saving grace amidst the deepening filial hardship has been and still is the powerful culture of sharing. Lucky we live on an island where caring is a strong aspect of daily living. Imagine if it were otherwise!

The nearly 15,000 employees earning poverty income here is itself troubling. It's a reflection of a stagnant economy though the opposite is being trumpeted. Must settle down and look at this phenomenon beyond *biba*.

Definitely, it requires a factually healthy economy that lifts all boats. If we don't do our homework then Da Boysis on the hill will be looking down at the deep blue to figure out tidal shift. Is it hard calling up EMO for the right information?

■■■

Kilili moves to include the NMI under federal law governing SNAP. It's an outstanding plan that compromises the ability of shortsighted politicians here from compromising the needs of the poor. Ideology sounds good when writing white paper but not when people are actually struggling to put food on the dinner table.

■■■

Listening: I've kept my ears to the ground for some sense of direction where troubled paradise is headed in the near-term. Silence! Oh? There's the consensus of leadership stuck in a vacuum. Appalling!

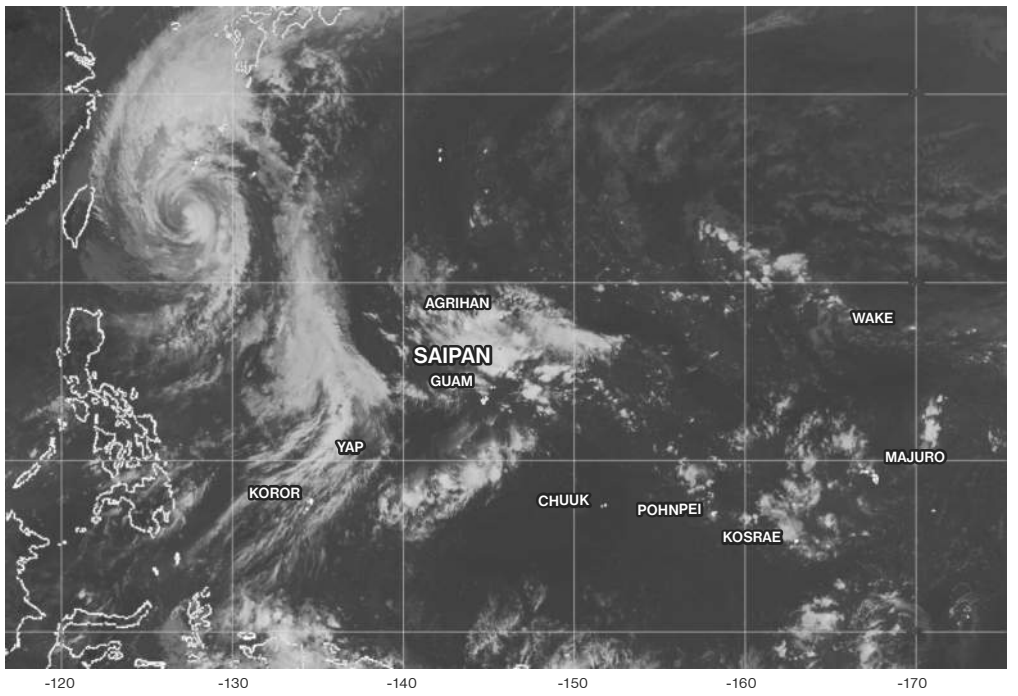
Indeed, it takes a visionary with a realistic set of plans to move the archipelago somewhere beyond lamañana or conventional wisdom. I still haven't seen anyone with this caliber, sadly.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:17 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A very elongated upper-level low northwest of Guam extends a trough southeast across Guam. Northeast of the trough axis, winds at 40 kft are from the southeast at 40 kt, triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Rota, Tinian and Saipan, while Guam has only some high cloudiness and much lighter upper winds. Trade winds are gentle to moderate, with seas of 5-6 feet at Tanapag buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	79° / 54°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 76°
London	Sunny	72° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 62°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	72° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
New York	Sunny	68° / 59°
Osaka	Showers	81° / 72°
Paris	Sunny	75° / 55°
Busan	Rain	75° / 64°
Rome	Showers	79° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 68°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Seoul	Rain	66° / 55°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:57 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.66
10:13 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.10
5:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
11:08 PM	LOW TIDE	0.95

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:59 AM	3:07 PM	-
Saturday	3:00 AM	3:58 PM	-
Sunday	4:00 AM	4:46 PM	-
Monday	4:59 AM	5:32 PM	-
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:17 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	1, 3, 5
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

CCA, ARC launch lunch buffet fundraiser

The Commonwealth Cancer Association and Aqua Resort Club Saipan have launched a lunch buffet at the Costa Terrace Restaurant that is also a fundraiser to fight breast cancer.

Starting last Oct. 1, 2018, the fundraising promotion will run for 30 days, ending on Oct. 31, 2018. Five percent of all sales at the Costa Terrace Restaurant lunch buffet will be donated to the CCA.

The Costa Terrace lunch buffet is available Monday to Saturday, from 1am to 2pm. The local rate is $19 per adult, and $9 per child (ages 5-10)

Aqua Resort said the fundraiser "is just one of the things we can do to help the non-profit organization achieve its mission and to join in the fight against breast cancer."

The CCA began as an alliance of volunteers in 2003 and became formally chartered and incorporated in 2008. In 2009, CCA achieved a tax-exempt under 501 (c)(3), status. It provides direct client financial assistance for nutritional supplements and other personal needs, as well as offers certain types of medical equipment, e.g., hospital beds, wheelchairs, oxygen concentrator, etc. as prescribed by a licensed physicians in the CNMI to those individuals who are receiving treatment for cancer.

The annual Marianas March Against Cancer is CCA signature fundraising event for 16 years.

Also, CCA facilitates monthly cancer survivors support group meetings, and engages in various awareness and outreach activities and has produced various educational publications such as brochures, fliers and DVDs.

CCA organizes community events such as cervical cancer, colon cancer, oral cancer, childhood and prostate cancer, breast cancer, and lung and pancreatic cancer awareness, to mention a few.

CCA also engages in programs such as early screening and detection, and patient navigation.

Help families, friends, and community members who have been touched by cancer by enjoying a delicious lunch buffet at Aqua Resort.

Contact CCA at 682-0050, by email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or log on to www.ccamarianas .org website for more information about the CCA and its programs.

Contact Aqua Resort at 322-1234 for more information about the lunch buffet and fight breast cancer. ***(PR)***

USCIS guidance for implementing new law related to foreign workers in Guam, CNMI

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has published a policy memorandum providing guidance on the implementation of section 1045 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 , which allows certain H-2B workers in Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to qualify for an exemption to the "temporary need" requirement if they begin employment on or before Dec. 30, 2023.

USCIS is accepting H-2B petitions filed pursuant to the NDAA provision that exempts the temporary need requirement for certain healthcare workers in Guam and the CNMI, as well as for workers directly connected to, or directly associated with, the planned military realignment of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam.

The fiscal year 2019 NDAA also eliminated the annual cap of 4,000 H-2B workers for Guam and the CNMI that were permitted to use the temporary need exemption.

The policy memorandum provides detailed information on how petitioners may demonstrate eligibility for the exemptions under the new law. Petitioners must continue to comply with other H-2B requirements including submission of an approved temporary labor certification issued by Guam's Department of Labor or the U.S. Department of Labor, as appropriate.

Employers in Guam and in the CNMI remain exempt from the national H-2B cap until Dec. 31, 2029. Additional general information about the H-2B program can be found on the H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Workers page. ***(PR)***

USCIS uses tablets to administer English reading and writing tests

Starting Oct. 1, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services began using digital tablets to administer the English reading and writing tests during naturalization interviews as part of the agency's ongoing business modernization efforts.

Although USCIS applicants already use digital tablets to sign or verify parts of their applications, this new approach expands tablet usage, allowing the device to be used for a greater portion of the application process.

USCIS will be able to continue using the paper process on a case-by-case basis.

While the eligibility requirements and the subject material of the naturalization test have not changed, applicants are now using a stylus on a digital tablet instead of a paper application.

Immigration services officers will carefully instruct applicants on how to use the tablets before administering the tests:

- For the reading test, a sentence will appear on the tablet and the ISO will ask the applicant to read it.
- For the writing test, several lines will appear on the tablet, replicating the appearance of a piece of blank paper. The ISO will read a sentence aloud and ask the applicant to write it on the tablet.

Applicants will continue to take the civics test verbally, without the tablet. ***(PR)***

NMI Supreme Court holds hearing at MCS

The CNMI Supreme Court held an appellate court hearing at Mount Carmel School last week, with both defense lawyer and prosecutor arguing their case before the justices on the merits of the law.

It was presided over by Chief Justice Alexander Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos.

Nancy A. Dominski, of the CNMI Office of the Public Defender, and Robert Charles Lee, of the Office of the Attorney General, did the presentation before the justices.

The hearing was attended by Mount Carmel School students from the AP United States Government, AP United States History, and AP English courses as well as by members of the school's mock trial team.

Left to right,) CNMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John Manglona, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, and Associate Justice Perry Inos listen to arguments during an appellate hearing held at Mount Carmel School. MCS

Kyle Bautista, a veteran member of the MCS mock trial team, noted that the hearing was substantially different from his experience in mock trial. "The attorneys are not asking questions; instead they argued to the judge. I… learned a lot from this experience because both attorneys presented well-thought-out arguments based on different perspectives of the law."

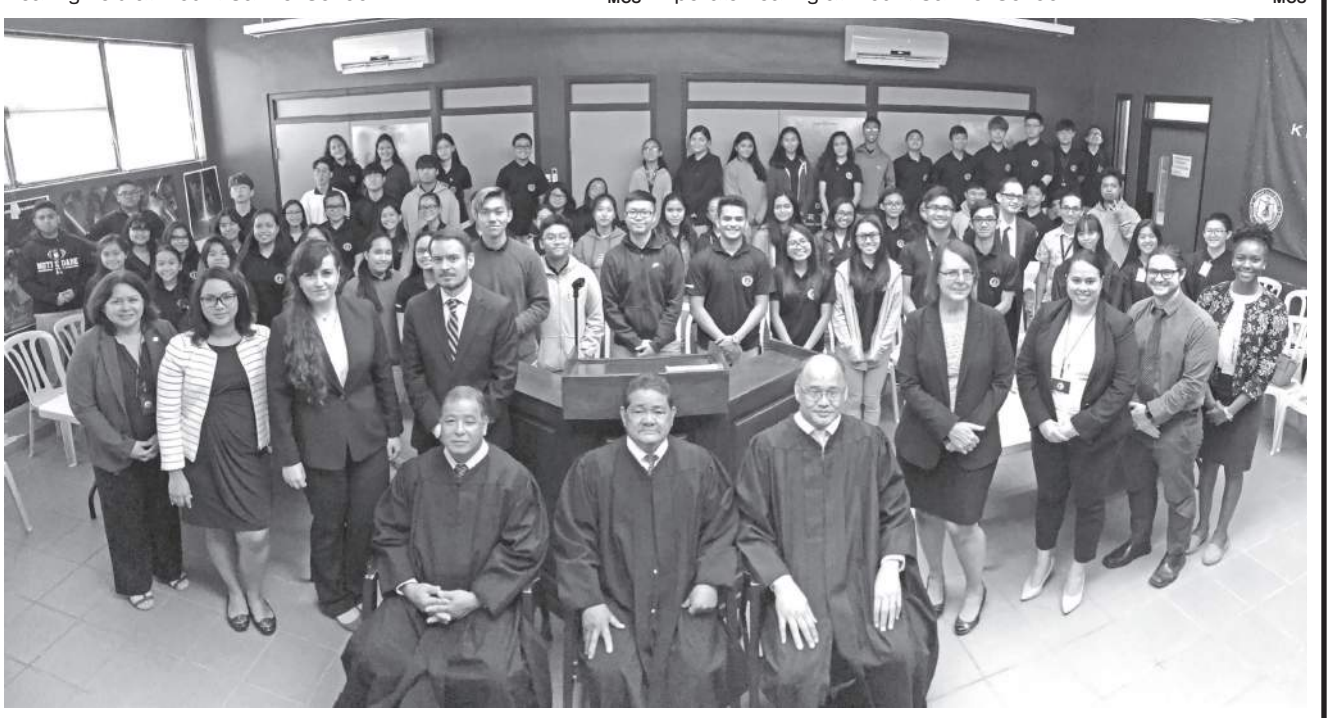
Angelo Manese said: "As a mock trial attorney myself, I find it comforting to know that even experienced lawyers still find challenges when formulating and presenting well-structured arguments."

The hearing was part of the NMI Judiciary's "Justices and Judges in the Classroom" interactive outreach designed to educate the youth on the judicial system and its functions. The program serves to help encourage students understand the role of the court system and the concepts of justice and responsibility.

For more information on the court's outreach program or seek further information, contact Divana Delacruz at divana.delacruz@justice.gov.mp. ***(Quincy Chinen, Justin Ocampo, and Reica Ramirez)***

A lawyer makes a point during a CNMI Supreme Court appellate hearing held at Mount Carmel School. MCS

A lawyer presents an argument during CNMI Supreme Court appellate hearing at Mount Carmel School. MCS



The CNMI Supreme Court recently held an appellate hearing at Mount Carmel School and gathered for a group photo with students, law clerks, and appellant and appellee attorneys. MCS

Business

Toys R Us ... not dead yet

There may be a second act for Toys R Us, the retail wonderland for children that turned out the lights at hundreds of stores for what was thought to be the final time over the summer.

After joining the parade of retailers that never recovered from the recession and radical changes in the way Americans shop for toys and everything else, a group of investors is planning a comeback for Geoffrey the giraffe and his crew.

The group, made up of secured lenders, said in a bankruptcy court filing Tuesday that it's scrapping an auction for Toys R Us assets despite receiving a number of qualified bids.

AP

In this Friday, June 1, 2018 file photo, customers walk back to their vehicles after shopping at a Toys R Us store in Totowa, N.J.

The group now believes that it stands a better chance of a realizing a return on its investment by potentially reviving the toy chain, rather than selling it off for parts. The group will attempt to establish a "company that maintains existing global license agreements and can invest in and create new, domestic, retail operating businesses under the Toys "R" Us and Babies "R" Us names."

The investors said they'll work with potential partners to develop new ideas for stores in the U.S. and other countries "that could bring back these iconic brands in a new and re-imagined way."

Toys R Us suffocated under a staggering $5 billion debt load before liquidating its U.S. assets this year. A leveraged buyout hobbled the company and hundreds of stores were shuttered in June to the dismay of children and numerous generations of one-time children.

The seeming end of Toys R Us rippled through the toy industry and beyond. When the company closed the doors at some 800 stores, more than 30,000 people lost their jobs. Less than a month later, Mattel said it would cut more than 2,200 jobs partly because of lost sales to Toys R Us.

Economists were caught off guard that month by the slow growth in jobs, particularly retail, and some blamed the collapse of Toys R Us.

There was a net gain of 7,000 retail jobs in July, but the overall number was weighed down by the loss of approximately 32,000 jobs in the category that includes games and toys. That figure correlates with the number of Toys R Us employees that were cut loose without severance pay.

Toys R Us was overwhelmed on several fronts in the months leading up to its filing for bankruptcy protection.

In addition to the debt it was saddled with by its private-equity owners, Toys R Us found itself in a battle to its seeming death with Amazon.com and other big toy sellers like Target and Walmart.

The current asset holders did not go into detail about how the company, which maintained its headquarters in Wayne, New Jersey, would thrive in such an environment. ***(AP)***

Canada relieved trade deal done, won't forget Trump attacks

TORONTO (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump vowed to make Canada pay after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he wouldn't be bullied in trade talks. Trump called Trudeau "weak" and "dishonest." He threatened tariffs on cars and slapped them on steel.

The unprecedented attacks on America's closest ally left a bitter taste. But Canadians mostly feel relieved after reaching a new trade agreement with Trump. Many said it could have been a lot worse. Canada avoided auto tariffs and maintained access to the all-important American market.

The U.S. made few, if any concessions, while Canada provided more access to its dairy sector and allowed Washington to possibly prevent Canada from reaching a free trade deal with China. Canada also was not able to remove steel and aluminum tariffs.

"We were definitely over the barrel in this negotiation," said Peter MacKay, a former Canadian foreign minister. "We have survived it. We have survived the 14 roller coaster months of a very unpredictable president."

About 75 percent of Canada's exports go to the U.S., so preserving major elements of the North American Free Trade Agreement was crucial. Canada is one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world and Trump's talk of ripping up that deal and imposing a 25 percent tariff on the auto sector posed a serious economic threat.

"We didn't ask to reopen NAFTA. We were dragged into it and we dealt with it the best we could," said Jean Charest, a former Quebec premier.

"We were always on the defensive. We always knew from the outset that we weren't going to be making spectacular gains. We limited the damage and preserved our access to the American market."

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, Canada's chief negotiator, called it a victory because it maintains tariff-free access to the U.S. for most of the country's exports. The Trump administration's most contentious demands like its insistence that 50 percent of autos imports be American-made were dropped. Canada also kept at NAFTA dispute-resolution process that the U.S. wanted to jettison.

"The most important gain from this agreement is retaining our access to the U.S. market and Canadians understand that," Freeland said.

But there is a widely shared belief that Canada made concessions and the U.S. did not.

"The concessions were all from Canada and Mexico," MacKay said. "All of them. The only thing that the United States gave up was more demands."

Robert Bothwell, a professor at the University of Toronto, also said the U.S. just reduced their initial demands.

"The deal is not a disaster," Bothwell said. "People will accept it with resignation rather than joy. I trust when the Canadian signs he'll just wash his hands afterward."

Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Trudeau, expressed relief that the deal is done but worried about the long-term relationship between the two countries.

"Canadians won't forget Trump's disgraceful treatment of Canada. Our economic partnership has been reaffirmed, but trust can't be rebuilt with the stroke of a pen," Paris tweeted.

The agreement reached Sunday shows a give-and-take between the two countries: It gives U.S. farmers slightly greater access to the Canadian dairy market, but provides Canada protection if Trump goes ahead with plans to impose tariffs on cars and auto parts imported into the U.S.

Canada could have lost 60,000 jobs in a trade war and taken a 1 percentage percent hit to its GDP — a significant drop because Canada's economy is projected to grow just 2 percent next year, according to estimates from the C.D. Howe Institute, a Toronto-based think tank.

Ontario's auto industry faced the biggest threat, but the sector welcomed the new agreement. The deal requires that 40 to 45 percent of a car's content be built where workers earn $16 an hour. That is meant to bring production back to the United States or Canada and away from Mexico, where auto workers earn on average just $4 to $5 an hour.

Jerry Dias, president of Canada's largest private-sector union, Unifor, said he was thrilled the auto tariff threat has been lifted.

The agreement also potentially restricts Canada and Mexico from reaching a free trade agreement with China and other "non-market" countries. If Canada or Mexico signed a deal with China, the U.S. could terminate its trade agreement with Canada or Mexico on a six-month notice. That may pose a problem for Canada which is eager to diversify its trade.

"It's bizarre," Charest, the former Quebec premier, said. "I have never seen anything like that in a trade agreement."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Amazon to cut bonuses, stock benefits as it raises wages

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon made a big splash this week with its $15 an hour minimum wage announcement, but lost in the fine print: Existing warehouse workers will no longer receive stock in the company or collect bonuses. The online giant says next month it will end bonuses, which paid workers extra based on their attendance and warehouse productivity, as it boosts its minimum wage. Amazon will also phase out its restricted stock unit program, which gave shares to workers if they stayed with Amazon for a certain amount of years. Amazon says it will replace it with a program next year that will allow workers to buy stock, but didn't provide details. Amazon.com Inc. says "compensation will be more immediate and predictable" with the changes. The company said its other benefits, such as 401(k) retirement accounts and health insurance, were not changed.

UK and Australia blame Russian unit GRU for cyberattacks

LONDON (AP)—British and Australian officials said on Thursday the Russian military intelligence unit GRU is behind a wave of global cyberattacks. Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Thursday the GRU is responsible for "indiscriminate and reckless" attacks against political institutions, businesses, media and sports. Britain's National Cyber Security Center has concluded that hackers behind numerous attacks have been identified as GRU personnel. The agency says four new attacks are associated with GRU as well as earlier cyberattacks. It cites attacks on the World Anti-Doping agency, Ukrainian transport systems, the 2016 U.S. presidential race and others as very likely the work of the GRU. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Foreign Minister Marise Payne issued a joint statement that Australian intelligence agencies agreed that GRU "is responsible for this pattern of malicious cyber activity." They said Australia was not significantly impacted, but the cyberattacks caused economic damage and disrupted civilian infrastructure in other places.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,828.39	2,925.51	8,025.08
+54.45	+2.08	+25.54
+0.20%	+0.07%	+0.32%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.41	Hong Kong Dollar	7.84	Russian Ruble	66.12
British Pound	0.773	Indian Rupee	73.78	Singapore Dollar	1.38
Canadian Dollar	1.29	Indonesian Rupiah	15,214	South Korean Won	1129.78
Chinese Yuan	6.87	Malaysian Ringgit	4.15	Swiss Franc	0.99
Euro	0.8711	New Zealand Dollar	1.54	Taiwan Dollar	30.81
		Philippine Peso	54.38	Thailand Baht	32.64

Nation

Officer killed, 6 other officers wounded in South Carolina

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP)—Seven South Carolina law enforcement officers were shot Wednesday, one fatally, in a confrontation with a man who held children hostage as he fired on the officers, officials said.

The suspect was taken into custody and the children weren't hurt after a two-hour standoff in an upscale neighborhood just outside of Florence, not far from areas that were devastated by flooding from Hurricane Florence, authorities said.

The man shot three Florence County deputies from inside a home as they came to serve a warrant around 4 p.m. Wednesday, Florence County Sheriff's Maj. Mike Nunn said.

The suspect then shot four Florence city police officers, one fatally, as officers from all around the area swarmed in to help, Florence Police Chief Allen Heidler said.

A bullet-proof vehicle had to be used to rescue the wounded officers as the man held children hostage inside for two hours, Nunn said.

Officials refused to say why they were serving a warrant. They also did not name him or the wounded officers, nor did they give the conditions for the wounded.

AP

A police officer directs traffic on Hoffmeyer Road near the Vintage Place neighborhood where three deputies and two city officers were shot Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in Florence, S.C.

City of Florence spokesman John Wukela identified the fallen officer to The Associated Press as Terrence Carraway of Darlington. Carraway, 52, had just celebrated 30 years as a police officer in the city, Wukela said. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital. An autopsy will be performed at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, according to the coronor's office.

Both Heidler and Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone had tears in their eyes as they spoke to reporters about two hours after the standoff ended.

"I want you to pray for the family who lost the bravest police officer I have ever known," Heidler said, visibly overcome by emotion at the news conference.

Condolences and outpourings of support rolled in at news of the shooting.

"This is simply devastating news from Florence," Gov. Henry McMaster tweeted. "The selfless acts of bravery from the men and women in law enforcement is real, just like the power of prayer is real."

Thom Berry, spokesman for the State Law Enforcement Division, said the agency had sent crime scene technicians to assist officials in Florence but were not immediately requested to help with any investigation.

Boone said investigators from Richland County would help investigate the shooting. He did not say why he wasn't using state police like most law enforcement agencies do in officer shootings in South Carolina.

Authorities said the shootings happened in Vintage Place, an upscale neighborhood west of the city. Neighbors said the community is full of brick homes and well-kept yards. Property records show several houses valued at more than $400,000.

Bobby Goin stood outside waiting for police to let him back to his home where his wife and granddaughter heard gunshots from the home back further in the neighborhood.

"Surprised is probably an understatement," Goin said of the shooting in the neighborhood where he has lived for 20 years. "The worst thing that goes on around here is that someone runs a stop sign and it gets posted on Facebook."

This is the second shooting of multiple police officers in South Carolina this year. In January, a 47-year-old former banker shot four officers in York County, killing one, after his wife called 911 to report he beat her. Christian McCall pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life without parole.

Florence, a city in South Carolina's northeastern corner home to roughly 37,000, sits at the convergence of Interstates 95 and 20. It's the largest city in the region known as the Pee Dee, where flooding from Hurricane Florence devastated areas to the east and south.

Walkout teachers now in a drive to win US statehouse posts

Last September, school speech therapist Kathy Hoffman was settling into the new academic year, working with youngsters in her small classroom behind a playground at Sahuaro Ranch Elementary School in a blue-collar neighborhood outside Phoenix.

This year, the political novice is gone from her classroom and on the campaign trail across Arizona full-time as the Democrats' choice in the race to become superintendent of public education, overseeing the state's schools. The job is typically held by career politicians or political insiders.

"My tipping point was realizing we need more teachers running for office, people who understand what it's like in the classroom, who have seen the effect of having the lack of resources from our lawmakers," Hoffman said.

Hundreds of current and former educators, most of them Democrats like Hoffman, are on general election ballots from school board to governor—far exceeding educator candidacies prior to this year's #RedForEd protests.

In her first campaign during the Democratic primary, the 32-year-old Hoffman beat a former state senate minority leader, illustrating how much a surge in teacher activism centering on higher teacher pay and increased educational funding have shaken up November midterm elections around the U.S.

She and the other teacher candidates represent a wildcard political movement following the teacher-driven #RedForEd effort that drew support from parents and school children in Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Oklahoma and West Virginia and also focused on outdated textbooks, crowded classrooms and teacher shortages. Across the country, some educators have already won primary races against the incumbent state legislators they blamed for public school spending cutbacks.

"It's about standing up for what's right and bringing that teacher's voice to that position," Hoffman said. "I felt it should come straight from the classroom."

After years of dense education debates over teacher evaluations and the Common Core learning standards, the new teacher candidates' simplified message for higher pay and more funding for schools represent "talking points (that) are resonating," said Frederick Hess, director of education policy at the conservative American Enterprise Institute public policy think tank.

"What we might be seeing is the emergence of a number of individuals who will be an elected mainstream set of advocates for these teacher issues," he said.

In the state senate races in Maine and Minnesota, teacher candidates could help flip state legislatures to Democratic control, according to Mara Sloan, spokeswoman for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. She said her group knows of 650 educators running for state legislative positions across the country this year and that more than 450 are Democrats.

In Kentucky, at least 34 current and former teachers are on the ballot in the general election for seats in the state legislature, 29 of them Democrats. In Connecticut, former National Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes won the Democratic primary for a U.S. House seat. The Oklahoma Education Association said 55 educators are running in the general election for the state legislature.

Who sees it? Senators, staff to have access to FBI report

WASHINGTON (AP)—All 100 senators, and a handful of Senate staff, will be able to read the FBI's new report on sexual misconduct allegations against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. But it's unclear if the public will see it.

Background checks are a routine part of any nominee's vetting process and are generally delivered to the Senate without much fanfare. This background check, requested by a trio of senators who are undecided on Kavanaugh's confirmation, will be different.

It's expected that many senators will want to read or be briefed on the supplemental background check.

The report will review allegations from California professor Christine Blasey Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when both were teenagers, and from Kavanaugh's Yale classmate Deborah Ramirez, who says he exposed himself to her at a party when both were freshmen. Kavanaugh has denied their accusations.

To accommodate the senators, and to guard the sensitive information, the FBI's report is expected to be held in a secure room normally reserved only for classified matters. There are several of these rooms in the Capitol complex, but senators usually use one in the basement of the Capitol Visitor Center just off the Senate side. The rooms are called SKIFs, or Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley is expected to read the report first, followed by his colleagues either individually or possibly in groups.

According to a preliminary schedule, Republicans will read the first hour, starting Thursday morning, and Democrats will read the hour after that, according to a person who was briefed on the plan. The person was not authorized to release the information and requested anonymity.

There are nine staff members — both Republicans and Democrats — who have access to the report and can brief members who don't want to read it in detail.

No copies will be made of the report, as is standard, so senators will have to go to the room to learn what is in it. And because the report is confidential, they will be expected not to repeat what they learn.

"None of that stuff's public," Grassley, R-Iowa, told reporters on Wednesday. "If you want people to be candid when they talk to the FBI, you ain't going to make that public."

The rules for keeping investigations confidential and closely held were laid out in an agreement with the governing background checks dating from the Obama administration. It's unclear whether there will be a public summary of the information, or whether the White House would be allowed to release portions of the report.

Asia

Volcano erupts on same Indonesian island as earlier quake

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A volcano erupted Wednesday on the same central Indonesian island struck last week by a powerful earthquake and tsunami, but no evacuations were ordered.

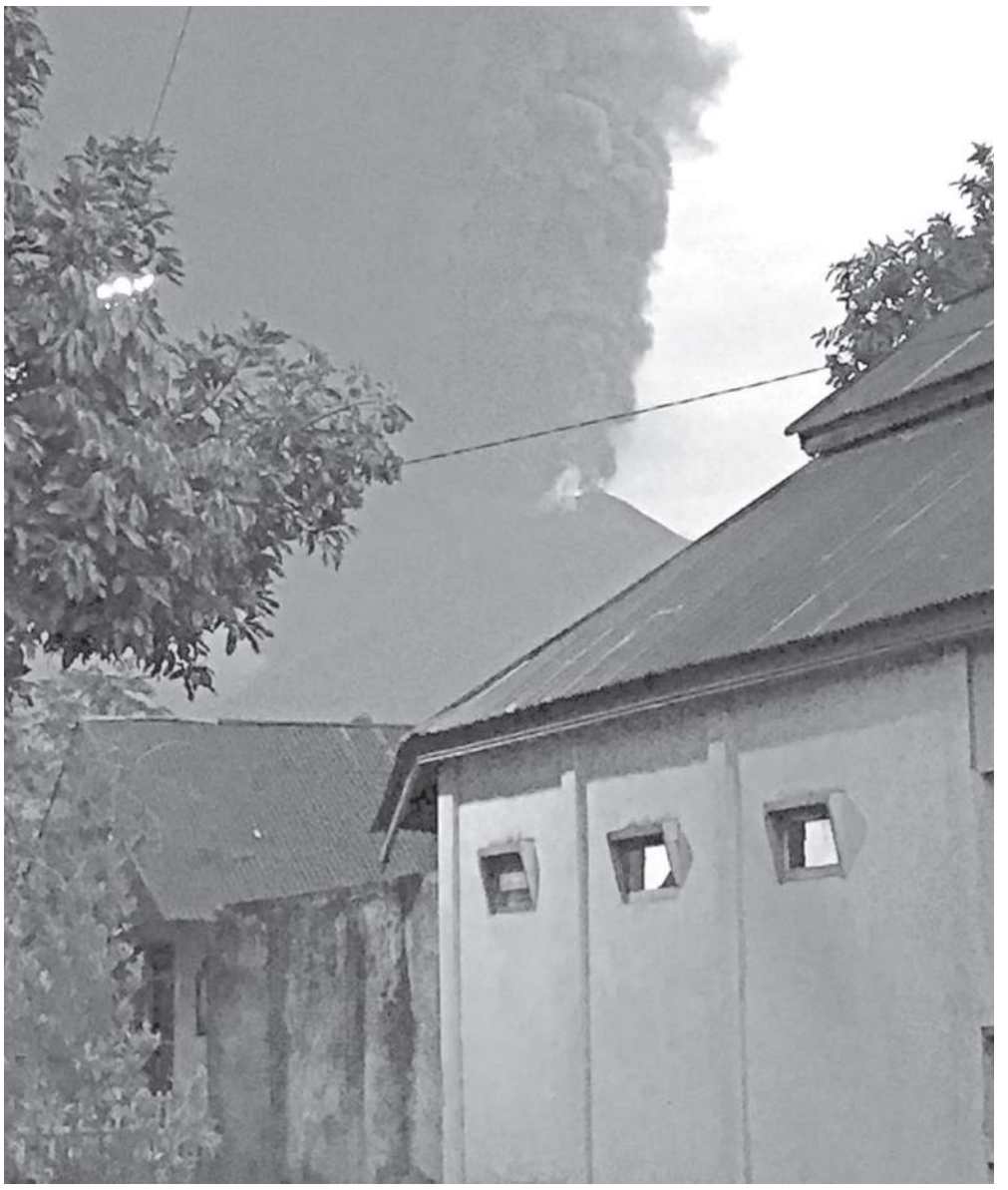
Mount Soputan on the northern part of Sulawesi island spewed ash more than 6,000 meters (19,700 feet) into the sky in the morning. Lava was visible at the summit during an evening eruption that sent up another ash column. The danger zone around the peak is small and has no residential areas, officials said.

A government volcanologist said it's possible the eruption was accelerated by the magnitude 7.5 earthquake that struck on Friday.

"It could be that this earthquake triggered the eruption, but we have seen an increase in volcanic activity since July and this began surging on Monday. Yet we can't say there a direct link, as the mountain is quite far away," Kasbani, the head of Indonesia's Volcanology and Geology Disaster Mitigation Agency, said on local television.

Kasbani, who uses one name, said planes were warned to avoid the area. Volcanic ash is hazardous to plane engines.

Soputan's eruption status was raised from an alert to standby 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the summit and up to 6.5 kilometers to the southwest. National disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said at a news conference in Jakarta that no residential areas are within the 4-kilometer radius.



AP

Plumes of volcanic ash rise out of Mount Soputan, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, from the village of Tombatu, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The volcano agency said the public should avoid the area nearest the volcano and have masks available in the event of ash fall.

Nazli Ismail, a geophysicist at the University of Syiah Kuala in Banda Aceh on Sumatra island, stressed there was no concrete evidence to show the two incidents are linked.

"People talk about the butterfly effect. The concept is that when a butterfly flaps its wings, it can cause a catastrophe," he said. "So it is possible for the earthquake to trigger the volcano eruption, but it's not conclusive. This needs to be further investigated."

Danny Hillman Natawidjaja, a geologist with Indonesia's Institute of Science, echoed the views, saying there was not enough data to make a link.

"In principle, the seismic waves from the earthquake could increase pressure in the volcano's magma chamber and could cause an eruption. We don't know for sure," he said. He cited the example of the eruption of Mount Talang volcano in Indonesia's Sumatra province in April 2005, which geologists have said was connected to the devastating December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

Ismail said the Soputan volcano eruption isn't surprising as Indonesia sits on the seismically active Pacific "Ring of Fire," and Soputan is one of the most active volcanoes on the island.

The eruption would not affect planes transporting aid and supplies to the quake disaster areas, Nugroho said. The earthquake set off a tsunami and both devastated several communities, causing more than 1,400 deaths and displacing more than 70,000 residents.

The two areas are about 940 kilometers (585 miles) apart, and Nugroho said the volcanic ash was blowing in a different direction from Palu, the largest city in the quake disaster zone. He said it hasn't disrupted plane services or affected any evacuations from the disaster areas.

Nugroho denounced as hoaxes videos that appeared on social media allegedly showing villagers fleeing billowing volcanic smoke and a smoldering lava river. The videos appeared to show old eruptions elsewhere.

Government seismologists monitor more than 120 active volcanoes across the Indonesian archipelago.

Wife of former Malaysian leader arrested in graft scandal

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's anti-graft agency said Wednesday that the wife of former Prime Minister Najib Razak has been arrested and will face money laundering charges in a graft scandal involving the 1MDB state investment fund.

The agency said Rosmah Mansor was detained at its headquarters in the Putrajaya government administrative center, more than four hours after she arrived for a third round of questioning over alleged theft and money laundering at the fund.

Rosmah will be brought to court Thursday to face "several charges" under the anti-money laundering act, it said in a brief statement, without giving details.

Rosmah's lawyer, K. Kumaraendran, confirmed her arrest but declined to comment.

Wearing a bright green traditional dress, Rosmah smiled at reporters but didn't speak as she was escorted earlier Wednesday into the agency's building. She was first summoned by the agency on June 5 and again on Sept. 26, when she was questioned for nearly 13 hours. Local media have reported that she could face up to 20 charges.

Najib himself has pleaded not guilty to multiple counts of money laundering, corruption, abuse of power and criminal breach of trust in the scandal and is to face trial next year.

Earlier Wednesday, Najib was questioned by the police commercial crime office over the 1MDB scandal. He dodged reporters waiting for him outside the building.

Coincidentally, Najib will also appear in court Thursday for the management of his own corruption case.

Their daughter Nooryana Najwa Najib slammed the government for going after the family.

"I can accept taking action on a man who was in power, but putting the women in his life in harm's way is going too far," she wrote on Instagram, citing a recent police raid on the house of Najib's mother as well as Rosmah's arrest. "I suppose tomorrow makes for a great picture and media circus."

Nooryana posted a picture of a young Rosmah holding herself as a toddler, and vowed "we will persevere."

Rosmah, 66, is widely reviled for her opulent lifestyle and penchant for expensive jewelry and designer Birkin bags that led to her being compared with former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos and her extravagant collection of shoes.

Police found hundreds of luxury handbags, jewelry and cash—worth more than $266 million—during raids on apartments linked to the family shortly after Najib's shocking electoral defeat in May. Seized were 567 handbags, 423 watches and 12,000 pieces of jewelry, including 1,400 necklaces, 2,200 rings, 2,800 pairs of earrings and 14 tiaras. Najib has said the items were mostly gifts to his family.

In a biography in 2013, Rosmah said it was common for a prime minister's wife to receive expensive jewelry and gifts. She also said she had earned millions of ringgit from her own music album, which wasn't released to the public but was bought by government ministers who were fans of her singing talent.

Najib set up the 1MDB fund when he took power in 2009, but it accumulated billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered $4.5 billion from the fund from 2009 to 2014, some of which landed in Najib's bank account. They say $27.3 million was used to buy a rare diamond necklace for Rosmah.

Public anger over the scandal eventually led to the ouster of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 9 elections that ushered in the first change of power since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad reopened investigations into 1MDB that were suppressed under Najib's rule. He has also banned the couple from leaving the country.

Police have said investigations show that $972 million was transferred into Najib's bank accounts from three companies linked to 1MDB. Najib, 65, has accused Mahathir's government of seeking political vengeance against him and his family.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea renews call for Japan to exclude 'rising sun' flag

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has reiterated a demand that Japan should remove its "rising sun" naval flag from a warship participating in an international fleet review in Jeju island next week. Many South Koreans associate the symbol with Japanese military aggression during World War II and have expressed anger over the potential display of the alleged "war-crime flag" during the Oct. 10-14 event. Seoul's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha on Thursday said Japan should be more considerate about how South Koreans remember Japan's brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula before the end of the war. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said last week that the destroyer's display of the flag — portraying a red disc with 16 rays extending outward — would be mandatory under Japan's laws.

Indian court allows deportation of 7 Rohingya to Myanmar

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's top court is allowing the first deportations of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar since it ordered their identification last year. The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a plea by attorney Prashant Bhushan to let seven Rohingya live in India as they feared reprisal in Myanmar. They were arrested in 2012 for entering India illegally and have been held in a prison. The Indian government plans to hand over the seven to Myanmar border guards on Thursday. It says it has obtained travel permits for them from Myanmar. About 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh to escape a brutal campaign of violence by Myanmar's military. An estimated 40,000 Rohingya have taken refuge in parts of India.

UK's May tells critics to drop dream of a 'perfect' Brexit

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May battled to unite her Conservative Party on Wednesday, telling critics to abandon their dreams of a "perfect" Brexit and "come together" as divorce negotiations with the European Union enter their tough final phase.

May took on her detractors in a punchy address to the party's annual conference, a day after a rival, former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, challenged her authority with a crowd-pleasing speech of his own.

"If we all go off in different directions in pursuit of our own visions of the perfect Brexit, we risk ending up with no Brexit at all," May said in a warning to Johnson and others who aim to oust her or force her to change course.

"A Brexit that might make Britain stronger 50 years from now is no good to you if it makes your life harder today," she noted.

Britain's governing party is deeply divided over the country's impending departure from the EU, with pro- and anti-EU camps both criticizing the prime minister's negotiations with the bloc.

With just under six months until Britain leaves the EU on March 29, the speech Wednesday was an attempt by May to solve her Brexit conundrum.

The EU has rejected her proposed Brexit deal and demanded new ideas from Britain. But pro-Brexit members of May's Conservative government oppose any softening of the U.K.'s stance.

So the negotiations with the EU have ground to a halt, U.K. businesses are growing jittery and Conservative Brexiteers like Johnson are demanding that the U.K. make a clean break with the bloc—deal or no deal.

Less than three weeks before a make-or-break EU summit in Brussels, May said divorce talks were entering their "toughest phase."

But she rejected calls by Euroskeptics to walk away from the talks, saying that "leaving without a deal—introducing tariffs and costly checks at the border—would be a bad outcome for the U.K. and the EU."

May's speech was a direct riposte to Johnson, who told a rapturous audience on Tuesday that May's proposal for close post-Brexit economic ties with the EU was an "outrage" that would leave Britain unable to strike new trade deals around the world.

May defended her Brexit blueprint, which aims to keep Britain aligned with many EU rules in return for remaining in the bloc's single market for goods. She argued that her plan would preserve the frictionless trade that many businesses depend on, while ensuring "no change whatsoever" to Northern Ireland's border with Ireland.

The U.K. and the EU agree there must be no customs checks or other barriers along the currently invisible border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. But they don't agree on how to achieve that, and the issue remains the biggest obstacle to a Brexit deal.

May's speech was a triumph compared to last year's disastrous event, when she was plagued by a cough, interrupted by a prankster and had parts of the stage backdrop fall down as she was speaking.

This time, May even poked fun at her robotic public image—cemented when her awkward dance moves on a trip to Africa went viral—by busting a move as she took the stage to ABBA's "Dancing Queen."

She reached out to voters whose living standards have been squeezed by stagnating incomes and public-spending cuts since the 2008 global financial crisis. In a major policy shift, May said the government would abandon its long-held policy of slashing public spending in the name of deficit reduction.

"A decade after the financial crash, people need to know that the austerity it led to is over," she said.

AP

Anti Brexit protester stands outside the International Convention Centre in Birmingham during the Conservative Party Conference at the ICC, in Birmingham, England, Tuesday Oct. 2, 2018.

Putin calls poisoned ex-spy scumbag, traitor

MOSCOW (AP)—With a contemptuous grin, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called a former double agent who was sickened by a military grade nerve agent in Britain a traitor and "scumbag"—but dismissed the idea that Russia would target him in a poison attack.

Wednesday's remarks marked the first time Putin directly lashed out at Sergei Skripal, who spent weeks hospitalized with his daughter after both were poisoned in the city of Salisbury in March. British officials allege the attack on the Skripals received approval "at a senior level of the Russian state," an accusation Moscow has angrily rejected.

"He's just a spy, a traitor to the motherland," Putin said of Skripal during a panel discussion at an international energy forum. "Think about it as a citizen, what would be your attitude to someone who betrayed your own country? He's just a scumbag."

Putin reiterated that Russia had no reason to attack Skripal, a former officer of the Russian GRU military intelligence who was sentenced in 2006 to 13 years for spying for Britain. He was released as part of a 2010 spy swap deal and settled in the U.K.

"There was no need for poisoning," said Putin, himself a former KGB officer. "He was caught, punished, served a total of five years in prison and we let him go. That's it. He left and went on to consult some special services, and so what?"

He added on a sarcastic note that "espionage and prostitution are among the most important professions."

Asked about international sanctions on Russia triggered by the March 4 poisoning, Putin denounced what he described as an "information campaign" over the case and said London has stonewalled Moscow's proposal to conduct a joint probe.

The poisoning further heightened tensions between Russia and the West and triggered a wave of diplomats' expulsions in which hundreds of envoys were expelled by both Russia and Western nations.

Britain last month charged Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov with trying to kill Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, with the Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok.

British police say they believe the nerve agent used to poison Skripal and his daughter was smuggled to Britain in a counterfeit Nina Ricci perfume bottle and applied to the front door of Skripal's house.

More than three months later, the bottle was found by a local man, Charlie Rowley. He was hospitalized and his girlfriend Dawn Sturgess died after being exposed to the contents.

Pope opens youth meeting as sex abuse survivors stage sit-in

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis urged Catholic bishops to dream of a future free of the mistakes of the past as he opened a global church leadership meeting Wednesday amid renewed outrage over the priestly sex abuse and cover-up scandal.

Yet down the block from the Vatican's synod hall, about two dozen abuse survivors staged a sit-in, demanding their cause be taken up at the meeting and voicing outrage that some of the delegates had covered up for abusive priests.

"Make 'Zero Tolerance' Real," read one protest sign.

Francis welcomed more than 250 priests, bishops and cardinals—as well as 34 young Catholics—to a month-long meeting on ministering to future generations, urging young and old to listen to one another without prejudice.

He prayed for God's help to ensure the church "does not allow itself, from one generation to the next, to be extinguished or crushed by the prophets of doom and misfortune, by our own shortcomings, mistakes and sins."

The Oct. 3-28 synod comes amid new revelations about decades of sexual misconduct by priests and cover-ups in the U.S., Chile, Germany and elsewhere. That has sent confidence in Francis' leadership to all-time lows among the American faithful.

A new survey by the Pew Research Center found that just 31 percent of U.S. Catholics felt the pope was doing an excellent or good job in addressing the abuse issue, down from 45 percent in January and 55 percent in 2015.

It has been a disastrous year for the pope on the abuse front, after he botched a prominent cover-up scandal in Chile before changing course. More recently, he has been accused of rehabilitating an American ex-cardinal who pressured seminarians to sleep with him.

Those cases, coupled with the release of devastating studies about decades of abuses and cover-ups in Pennsylvania and Germany that predated his papacy, have fueled doubts about his oft-stated pledge of having "zero tolerance" for that, since implicated bishops remain in place.

"Pope Francis talks about 'zero tolerance,' and that bishops who cover-up should be removed and put on trial," said Alessandro Battaglia, who was 15 when he was abused by a Milan-area priest who last month was convicted and sentenced to over six years in prison.

The current archbishop of Milan, Mario Delpini, testified at the trial of the Rev. Mauro Galli that he had transferred Galli to another parish rather than report him to police or keep him away from other potential victims, as Battaglia's family had requested.

Despite publicity about the case, Francis named Delpini archbishop of Milan in July and named him a papal delegate at the synod.

"What is this 'zero tolerance'?" Battaglia asked at the protest Wednesday. "If he wants to give a sign of zero tolerance and coherence and credibility, remove him (Delpini)."

Among those participating in the protest were the hearing impaired victims of the notorious Antonio Provolo Institute in Verona, Italy, where deaf children were sodomized for years by Catholic priests and brothers. The victims have found no justice even though Francis and the Vatican were informed of their plight in 2014. They are now preparing a case to take to Italian prosecutors.

"We think young people should question the way the church has dealt with this in the past," said Matthias Katsch of the Ending Clergy Abuse global advocacy group.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Proposal on Colorado peak leads to couple's altitude issues

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A Texas man found a scenic location in the Colorado mountains to propose to his girlfriend, but the couple ran into trouble on the way down. The Boulder County sheriff's office says 27-year-old Joshua Mason of Denton, Texas, took 28-year-old Katie Davis on a hike Saturday to Jasper Peak at an elevation of nearly 13,000 feet (4,000 meters). They got lost as darkness fell. The couple were showing signs of altitude sickness and dehydration when a hiker found them. He led them to his camp and gave them food, water and a place to warm up. Another camper called for help. Rescuers reached the camp early Sunday and walked the couple to their car. They didn't require medical treatment. Sgt. Clay Leak says deputies learned the engagement was still on.

Six Flags St. Louis offers perks for customer coffin time

EUREKA, Mo. (AP)—Six contestants for a promotion at Six Flags St. Louis will compete for a $300 prize, season tickets and other perks, and all they have to do is spend 30 hours in a coffin. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that participants chosen for the ghoulish contest will bide their time in 2-by-7-foot coffins from 1 p.m. Oct. 13 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at the park. The contest celebrates the 30th year of Fright Fest. Contestants get a brief hourly bathroom break, but otherwise remain coffin-bound. All who complete the challenge get two 2019 Gold Season passes and other park prizes. If more than one makes it to 30 hours, a drawing will determine who gets the $300. One more perk: Successful coffin dwellers get to keep the coffin.

Picnic fizzles out as kombucha earns grandpa park ejection

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP)—A picnic for a 60-year-old grandfather fizzled out pretty quickly when he and his grandsons were kicked out of a park in Virginia for drinking kombucha. The bubbly, fermented tea originated centuries ago in China and typically contains a slight bit of alcohol. That's what got Sid Tatem in trouble while celebrating his birthday with his two grandsons at Chesapeake's Northwest River Park. The Virginian-Pilot reports the three were sipping homebrewed kombucha at the park when a ranger asked what they were drinking and then kicked them out upon discovering what it was. City spokeswoman Elizabeth Vaughn says the ranger acted because the beverage was given to juveniles. Kombucha sold in supermarkets must fall below 0.5 percent alcohol, but Tatem's homebrewed drink had not been tested for alcohol content.

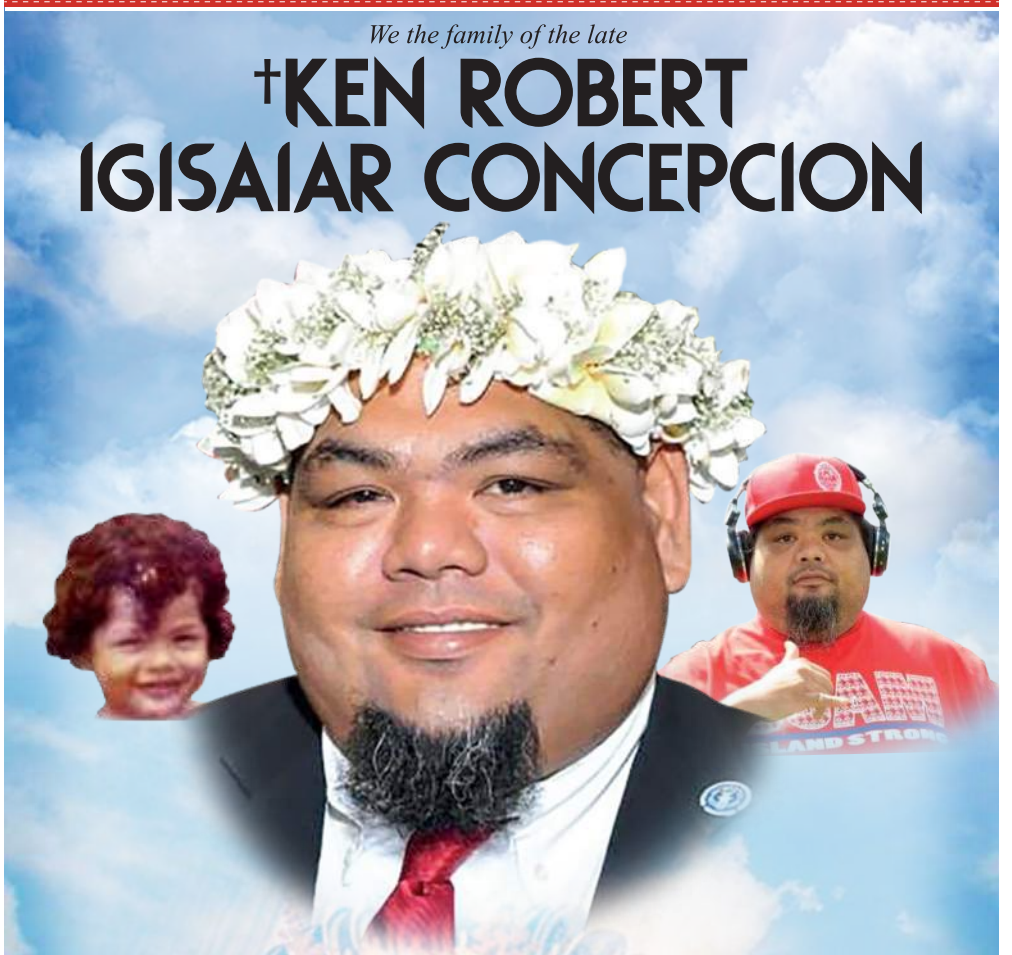
Man arrested for chasing after plane at Dublin Airport

LONDON (AP)—An Irish man who missed his flight at Dublin Airport was arrested Thursday for running after the plane on the tarmac in a bid to flag it down. Witnesses said a man in his 20s broke through an airport door and ran toward the Ryanair plane, which was about to take off for Amsterdam, at around 7 a.m. Declan Harvey, who was at the airport, said he could hear a man shouting "Wait!" at the plane before he was tackled to the ground by airport workers. The airport said that a man became "agitated" after he and a woman arrived at the gate too late for their flight. It said the man "broke through a door and made his way onto the apron, trying to flag the aircraft down." He was briefly restrained by Ryanair staff until airport police arrived. He was handed over to Irish police and taken to a Dublin police station. Patrick Kehoe, 23, later appeared in a Dublin court charged with criminal damage to a door lock. He was granted bail until a court appearance in November. Se he left court, Kehoe shouted abuse and insults at journalists and swung at them with his suitcase, before lowering his trousers and mooning bystanders.

Los Angeles has its 1st electric scooter DUI prosecution

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles man has been fined $550 and ordered to pay restitution for riding an electric scooter while intoxicated and knocking over a 64-year-old pedestrian on a sidewalk. The City Attorney's Office said Thursday the prosecution of 28-year-old Nicholas Kauffroath was the first motorized scooter driving under the influence legal case with a charge in Los Angeles. The office says in a statement that Kauffroath on Aug. 4 had a blood-alcohol level more than three times the limit while operating a Bird scooter. The pedestrian was knocked down leaving a theater and suffered a knee abrasion while the rider continued on. Kauffroath pleaded no contest to operating a motorized scooter under the influence and hit-and-run. He was placed on 36 months of probation and must complete a DUI program.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION



We the family of the late

†KEN ROBERT IGISAIAR CONCEPCION

We the family of the late KEN ROBERT IGISAIAR CONCEPCION, affectionately known as "KACY LANCHERU" would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the support and sympathy shown to us at this difficult time.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so very much,
Whatever the part.

A special thank you to those who attended mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa Saipan, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Agat, Guam, and all who travelled to Oxnard California to pay their respects. Special thanks also to Dignity Memorial Staff for their care, support, professional and dignified funeral arrangements.

We would also like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt thank you to all the persons that shared beautiful memories and moments with our beloved Kacy during his lifetime here on our earth. He was a generous, adventurous soul, a "social butterfly" that found happiness with all that he met. Your kindness will always be remembered by our family.

Si Yu'Us Ma'ase-Olomwaay
GINEN I FAMILIA

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

†RAMON CASTRO VILLAGOMEZ

*Would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our families, friends, and loved ones for their presence and outpour of love, support, and consoling words that have brought so much comfort as we mourn the loss of our beloved †**BO** who was a loving husband and father, a caring brother, and a wonderful friend to many.*

Our sincere thanksgiving also goes out to His Excellency, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, as well as the clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, for the spiritual guidance and prayerful support they have provided. It is through their prayers and words of wisdom that we draw strength and hold close to the Lord's promise of Resurrection.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Frank Cabrera and his team at Nuestra Señora De La Paz Memorial Chapel, to our local leaders and various government agencies, especially to the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Department of Fire Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS), for their timely assistance and the abundance of various support they have so willingly provided.

May the good Lord bless all of you for your kindness.
Till then, we are,

Sincerely yours in prayer,
ZENNY VILLAGOMEZ, CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Science & Technology

Emergency alert test sounds off on mobile phones nationwide

WASHINGTON (AP)—Electronic devices across the United States sounded off Wednesday as the Federal Emergency Management Agency conducted its first-ever national wireless emergency alert test.

The tone went off at 2:18 p.m. EDT. The subject of the alert read: "Presidential Alert" and text said: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

FEMA officials estimated that about 225 million devices would receive the alert at about the same time, but the message was broadcast by cell towers for 30 minutes so some people got it later than others. Some got as many as four alerts on their phones; others didn't get any.

In a real emergency, devices would get the alert at the same time or as close to the same time as possible.

A second alert on television broadcast and radio went off at 2:20 p.m. EDT. The TV and radio alert has been tested for several years.

The system test is for a high-level "presidential" alert that would be used only in a nationwide emergency. It was completed in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission.

It's not clear how successful the test was. FEMA officials said they would share test result data on how the testing went with mobile carriers to help ensure the system works well in a true emergency.

Phones with mobile carriers that participate in the wireless emergency alert system, which sends out information on hazardous weather, or missing children, got it. FEMA officials estimated it would reach about 75 percent of all mobile phones in the country, including phones on all of the major carriers.

Netflix binges taking up tons of bandwidth

When it comes to who or what is using up all that internet bandwidth out there, Netflix is the biggest of the big.

That's according to a new report from research firm Sandvine, which said Netflix is responsible for 15 percent of all internet bandwidth traffic. In its Global Internet Phenomena Report, Sandvine said that Netflix's usage levels make it the No. 1 worldwide application for downstreaming content.

Netflix's position was even more pronounced when compared to the other leading internet bandwidth users. Sandvine showed HTTP media streams took second place with 13.1 percent of all downstream traffic, and YouTube came in third with 11.4 percent.

Based on the size of Netflix's subscriber base, it should probably be no surprise that the company uses up such a big chunk of internet bandwidth. When Netflix reported its second-quarter results, in July, it said it had 130.1 million subscribers worldwide, with 57.4 million of those coming from the United States.

In the U.S., Netflix had an even bigger piece of the bandwidth pie, with 19.1 percent of internet traffic. Among leading video streaming, Amazon Prime claimed 7.7 percent of downstream traffic, and YouTube had 7.5 percent.

Sandvine said that of total internet traffic worldwide, video accounts for 57.7 percent of bandwidth usage. Netflix claims the top spot among video streamers, with a 26.6 percent global share, followed by YouTube's 21.3 percent share, Amazon Prime at 5.7 percent and Amazon-owned gaming site Twitch's 3.5 percent.

Sandvine said it culled its data from 150 service providers that represent 2.1 billion internet service subscribers worldwide. ***(The Mercury News)***

N. Korea said to have stolen a fortune in online bank heists

WASHINGTON (AP)—North Korea's nuclear and missile tests have stopped, but its hacking operations to gather intelligence and raise funds for the sanction-strapped government in Pyongyang may be gathering steam.

U.S. security firm FireEye raised the alarm Wednesday over a North Korean group that it says has stolen hundreds of millions of dollars by infiltrating the computer systems of banks around the world since 2014 through highly sophisticated and destructive attacks that have spanned at least 11 countries. It says the group is still operating and poses "an active global threat."

It is part of a wider pattern of malicious state-backed cyber activity that has led the Trump administration to identify North Korea—along with Russia, Iran and China—as one of the main online threats facing the United States. Last month, the Justice Department charged a North Korean hacker said to have conspired in devastating cyberattacks, including an $81 million heist of Bangladesh's central bank and the WannaCry virus that crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

Child experts file FTC complaint against Facebook kids' app

NEW YORK (AP)—Children's and public health advocacy groups say Facebook's kid-centric messaging app violates federal law by collecting kids' personal information without getting verifiable consent from their parents.

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood and other groups asked the Federal Trade Commission on Wednesday to investigate Facebook's Messenger Kids for violating the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA.

The complaint says the app does not meet COPPA requirements because it doesn't try to ensure that the person who sets up the kids' account and gives consent to have their data collected is the actual parent. In fact, the groups say, someone could set up a brand new, fictional account and immediately approve a kid's account without proving their age or identity.

Facebook said Wednesday it hasn't yet reviewed the complaint letter. The company has said it doesn't show ads on Messenger Kids or collect data for marketing purposes, though it does collect some data it says is necessary to run the service.

Fifth Year Death Anniversary

† JESUS IGISOMAR WABOL

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear."

We, the children and family of the late †Jesus Igisomar Wabol invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 5th year anniversary of the passing of our beloved.

Mass of intentions are being celebrated daily at 6:00am at the Kristo Rai Church except Saturday, October 6, 2018, mass will be celebrated at 6pm. On the final day, Wednesday, October 10, 2018, mass will be celebrated at 6pm followed by dinner at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence, thoughts and prayers.

The Family

10-15% DISCOUNT on all pre-made arrangements

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Life & Style

Chelsea Clinton fights cyberbullying by answering trolls

NEW YORK (AP)—Chelsea Clinton says she's naturally an optimist and despite enduring name-calling from the time she was a child, she chooses to answer insults—even on Twitter—with kindness and respect.

"Cyberbullying is a huge challenge across our country. I think we need those of us with platforms to not ignore the trolls, not to become consumed by them, but to shine a light and say here's how you can respond where you're calmly defending yourself but you're also showing it's not OK and you're not degrading your own humanity in doing that," the 38-year-old mother of two said in an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press.

It's one of several messages in her new book, "Start Now! You Can Make a Difference," released this week. In it, Clinton encourages children to make a positive change in the world by educating themselves and taking action. The book focuses on preserving the environment, helping save animals, staying healthy and putting an end to bullying.

Clinton

"Start Now!" is Clinton's fourth children's book. Her role as an author is one of several that Clinton juggles, including motherhood, being vice chairman of the Clinton Foundation and teaching at Columbia University. Her latest book was inspired by the notion that age doesn't matter when it comes to activism.

"I've always believed that you're never too young or too old to make a difference. And then when I became a mom, I think I felt that even more keenly because all of a sudden I had, you know, first Charlotte and then Aidan, these little people in the world, I wanted the world to be a healthier, more equitable, more just safer place for them than previous generations," she said.

Making the world a safer place, in Clinton's eyes, also means abolishing bullying.

It's a topic Clinton knows only too well, enduring brutal criticism of her looks when she was growing up in the White House ("Saturday Night Live" did a skit poking fun at her at the time). There were also those who targeted her because she was the daughter of Bill and Hillary Clinton.

"So when I was confronted directly—even as a child—and people would say awful things to me, I would say, 'I'm sorry you feel that way. I don't feel that way. I don't think I'm ugly or born in sin or the family dog or that my parents should have aborted me or you know that like we all should be dead,'" she recalled. "I mean these are all things that people said to me when I was a kid and they were always said by much older people."

Decades later, the taunts still come—these days via social media. At first Clinton ignored them, but recently she started to speak up.

Thailand keeping 'The Beach' of movie fame closed for rehab

BANGKOK (AP)—Authorities in Thailand said they have decided to indefinitely extend the closure of a beautiful bay made famous by the Leonardo DiCaprio movie "The Beach" until it recovers from years of environment damage caused by too many tourists.

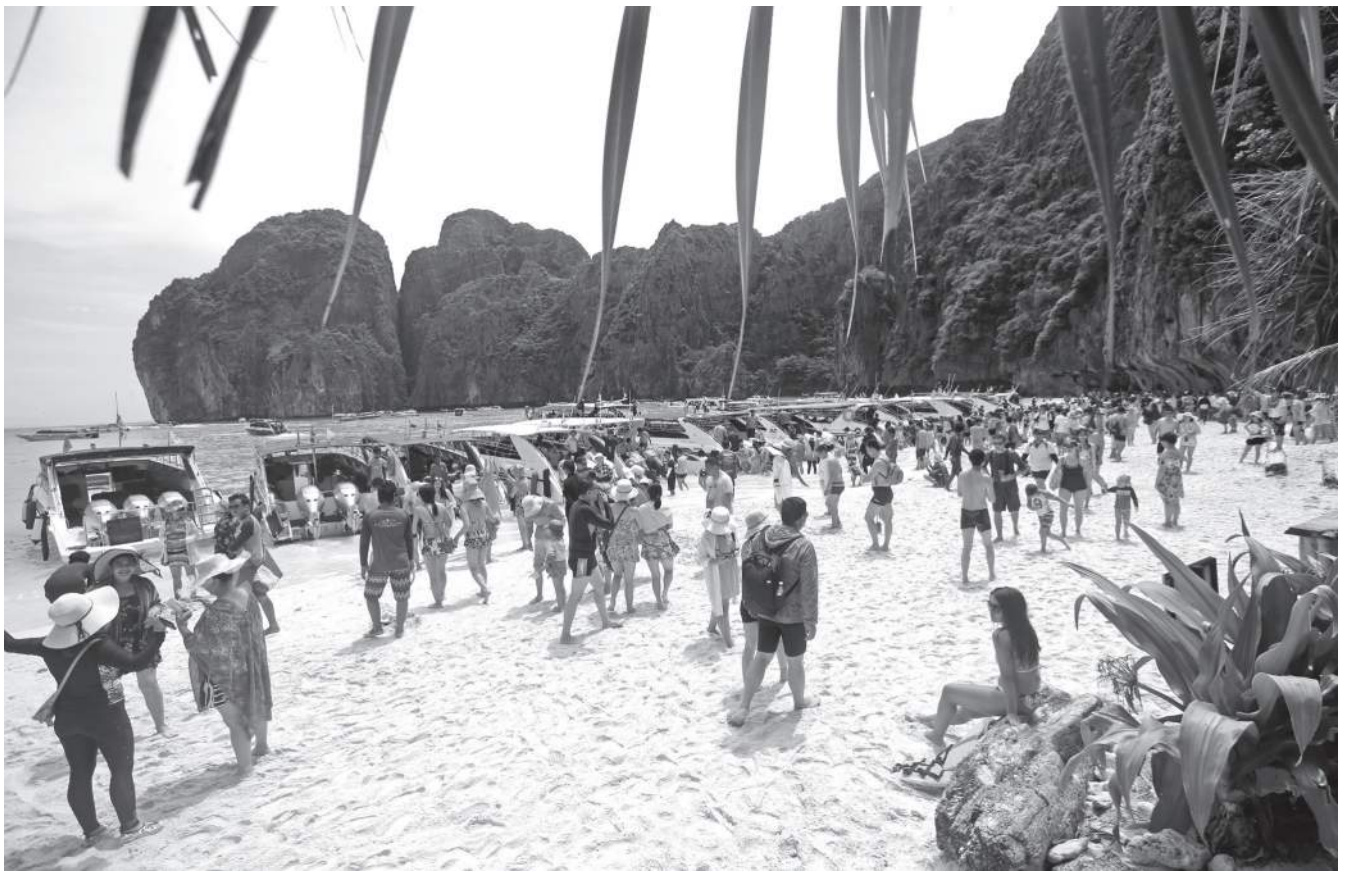
They had announced in March that tourists would be barred from Maya Bay from June 1 to Sept. 30.

An official announcement published Monday in the Royal Gazette said the bay, part of a national park, will now be closed "from Oct. 1, 2018, onwards until the marine natural resources return to their normal condition."

The announcement said an assessment by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation found that after having been closed to tourists for four months, Maya Bay still had not recovered.

Maya Bay, part of the Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park, had remained open year round to cater to tourist demand since a Hollywood crew set foot there in 1999 to film the dark backpacker tale that starred DiCaprio. Many Thai marine national parks are shut annually for four months.

The beach at Maya Bay had received an average of 200 boats and 4,000 visitors each day. Recent surveys by a team led by marine biologists found a large part of the coral reefs in the area is gone and sea life has virtually disappeared.


In this photo taken Thursday, May 31, 2018, tourists enjoy the beach on Maya Bay, Phi Phi Leh island in Krabi province, Thailand. Maya Bay will close to tourists indefinitely until its ecosystem returns to its full condition, the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said in a Monday announcement published on the Royal Gazette. AP

Jimmy Kimmel to open comedy club in Las Vegas in 2019

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel will see a dream come true when he opens a comedy club next spring in Las Vegas where he will make regular appearances and give up-and-coming comics a chance to hone their talents.

The late-night talk show host joined casino giant Caesars Entertainment in announcing plans Wednesday for the newest comedy club in Sin City.

Kimmel has spent a year planning everything from ceiling height to food for the venue along an outdoor promenade on the Las Vegas Strip across from Caesars Palace casino-resort.

"I grew up in Las Vegas, and I've always wanted to have a presence of some kind whether it be a restaurant or some kind of a pawn shop or something there," he told The Associated Press. "We've been hard at work."

Kimmel

The two-story, 300-seat venue will host big names and new talent chosen by Kimmel and his team.

Las Vegas is the home of a number of comedy clubs, including an outpost of New York's famed Comedy Cellar. Caesars' 4,300-seat Colosseum theater has hosted Jerry Seinfeld, Sebastian Maniscalco, Steve Martin and Martin Short, Jim Gaffigan and Jeff Dunham.

Kimmel wants to distinguish his club by capturing the spirit of classic Vegas through shows that go way into the night.

"The Rat Pack would play until four in the morning," he said. "Vegas is the kind of city where if the sun doesn't come up by the time you go to bed, I think you've failed."

The host of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" has not picked the first people to take the stage but said he wants to make it easy for comics to travel from Los Angeles to work at his club.

He said he sees other comedy clubs in Vegas as "opportunities" for comedians, not competition.

"The best comedy cities—L.A., New York, Chicago—have multiple comedy clubs and that's part of why they have a great comedy scene," he said.

Kimmel doesn't foresee any difficulties convincing the best comics to work in Sin City.

"It's become the premier food city in the United States. So, I don't see why it couldn't become the premier comedy city as well," he said.

7-year-old toy reviewer on YouTube becomes a toy himself

NEW YORK (AP)—Seven-year-old Ryan drew millions of views reviewing toys on YouTube. Now, he's become a toy himself.

Walmart is selling action figures in his likeness, putty with his face on the packaging and other toys under the Ryan's World brand. It's a bet that kids, who are spending more time tapping tablets, will recognize Ryan from YouTube and want the toys he's hawking.

The new line may also help Walmart lure former Toys R Us shoppers, as many chains make a play for those customers ahead of the holiday shopping season.

The first-grader, who's been making YouTube videos for three years, has become a major influencer in the toy industry. The clips typically show him unboxing a toy, playing with it and then waving goodbye to viewers. His most watched video, in which Ryan hunts for large plastic eggs, has more than 1.5 billion views.

Toys featured in the videos can see a spike in sales, says Jim Silver, editor of toy review site TTPM.com. "Ryan is a celebrity," he says. "Kids watch his videos. He's entertaining."

So much so that toy makers have paid Ryan and his parents to feature their products. Forbes magazine estimated that the Ryan ToysReview YouTube channel brought in $11 million last year, but his parents, Shion and Loann, declined to confirm that number or give any financial details about Ryan's deals. They also do not give their last name or say where they live for privacy and safety reasons.

Ryan's path from reviewer to tiny toy mogul started last year when his parents signed with Pocket.watch, a two-year-old company that works with several YouTube personalities to get their names on clothing, books and other products. Ryan is the first with a product line because of his large audience, Pocket.watch says.

Last month, Walmart started selling Ryan's World bright-colored slime for $4, 5-inch Ryan action figures for $9 and french fry-shaped squishy toys for $18. The retailer is the exclusive seller of some of the line, including T-shirts and stuffed animals.

Whether kids will want them "all comes down to the toy," says Silver, adding that hits are made in the playground, where youngsters show off their toys and tell others about it.

Darren Criss readies festival celebrating musical theater

NEW YORK (AP)—Darren Criss says adding "Emmy winner" to his name feels good since it "used to be Emmy loser."

Criss won best actor in a limited series for his acclaimed role in "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" last month. He was previously nominated for best original song for writing "This Time" from "Glee."

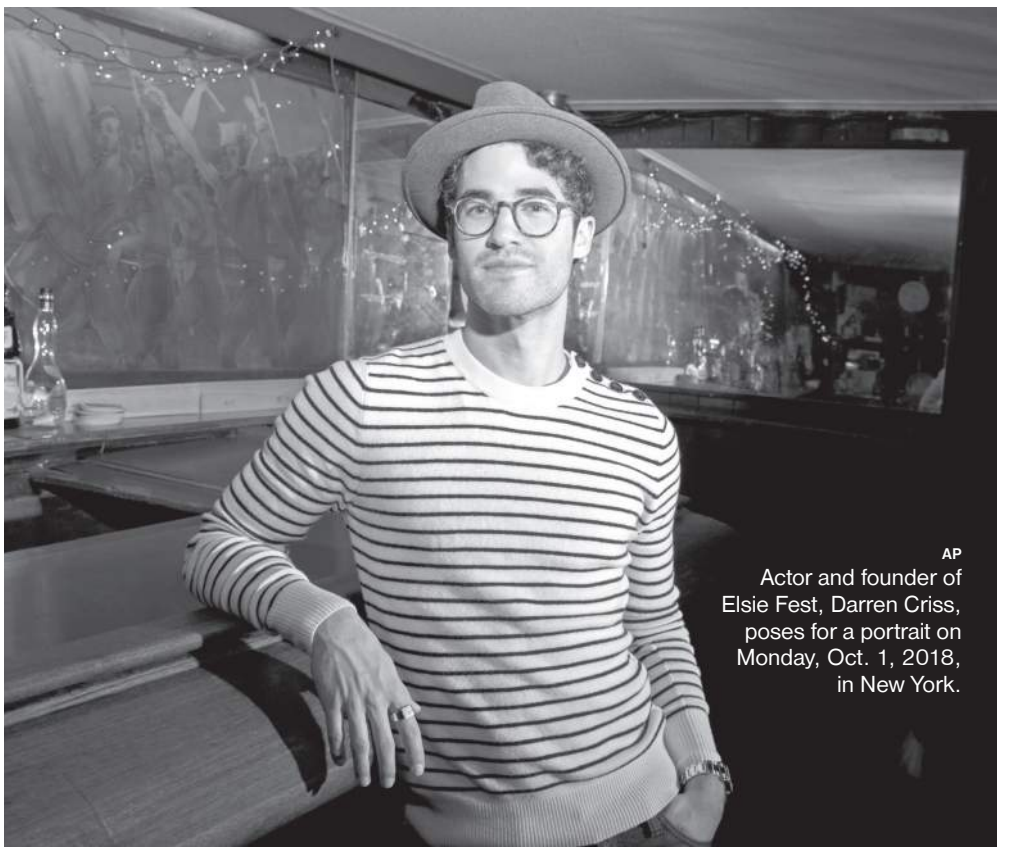
"Maybe my posture's gotten a little straighter. It's certainly a very flattering feather in my cap. I don't think it means I'm going to work any harder, or work any less harder than I already am," he said in an interview this week.

He's excited, though, that it could help the music festival he created—Elsie Fest—gain new fans: "If it means more people are interested in taking a chance on something like Elsie, awesome!"

The fourth annual Elsie Fest, which blends the musical theater and pop music worlds, takes place Sunday in New York's Central Park.

"I was the only guy that I knew that had as seasoned of a dual citizenship between this sort of Broadway/cabaret/musical theater world, which isn't just about performing; it's about knowing the people and the culture and where that culture has presence in other areas of culture," said 31-year-old Criss, who has starred in Broadway's "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," as well as appearing in numerous TV shows and films.

"So between that and working in rock venues and actually being a musician and touring places and knowing how to package a tour with an artist, I started seeing these margins of disconnect between worlds that should be pretty similar. These are all artists that are storytellers that have chosen different kingdoms to speak their language. And I started to realize that there was a disconnect and I wanted to put them together.



AP
Actor and founder of Elsie Fest, Darren Criss, poses for a portrait on Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, in New York.

Sutton Foster—who won Tonys for "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and "Violet" and stars on the hit TV series "Younger"—will headline the festival. Other performers include singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright, former "Glee" stars Matthew Morrison and Alex Newell, voice actress and singer Jodi Benson, Casey Cott of "Riverdale" fame, three-time Tony nominee Joshua Henry and "The Flash" actor Grant Austin. The festival, hosted by Z100's Elvis Duran, will also feature performances by the cast of the musicals "Be More Chill" and "The Prom" as well as the musical film "Anna and the Apocalypse." Marie's Crisis, the West Village piano bar, will host singalongs on its stage.

Past Elsie Fest performers included entertainers who have successfully jumped from the Broadway stage to the pop charts to TV and movies, including Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr., Evan Rachel Wood, Todrick Hall, Lea Michele, Tituss Burgess and Pasek and Paul.

"I think three or four years ago it was a pain in the (butt) to try to explain this to people because there was no precedent for it, so not only to festival-goers but to artists and investors there was sort of this uphill climb," Criss said.

"If we were starting a huge rock festival or pop festival, you can reference other things and other models that people can latch on to categorize what we're trying to do. We've set our own precedent and we're very proud of that and while it was frustrating in the beginning, the proof of concept just worked."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kate Hudson has third child and first daughter, named Rani

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kate Hudson says her baby girl is here. The "Almost Famous" actress announced Wednesday on her Instagram account that Rani (RAH-nee) Rose Hudson Fujikawa was born Tuesday. It's the third child but first girl for Hudson, and her first baby with musician boyfriend Danny Fujikawa. The photo she posted simply showed the birthdate—"10-2-18"—over a pink background. Hudson says the child is named after her grandfather Ron Fujikawa. She says everyone is doing well and happy as can be. The couple revealed in April that they were having a girl, and Hudson documented her pregnancy in many Instagram photos and videos, including a few with her mom Goldie Hawn. Hudson has two sons, 14-year-old Ryder and 7-year-old Bingham.

Mischa Barton of 'The O.C.' to join MTV 'The Hills' revival

NEW YORK (AP)—Mischa Barton is going from "The O.C." to "The Hills." The former "it girl" of Fox's soapy drama "The O.C." has joined MTV's revival of the reality show "The Hills," MTV announced Wednesday. "The Hills: New Beginnings" will also feature original cast members Audrina Patridge, Heidi and Spencer Pratt, Whitney Port and Brody Jenner. The original reality show, which aired from 2006 to 2010, followed the ups and downs of a group of twenty-somethings living in Los Angeles. It was a spinoff of "Laguna Beach," about a group of high-school kids in Orange County, California, starring Lauren Conrad. When she left the series, Kristin Cavallari, also a former "Laguna Beach" cast member, took over the lead role. Conrad and Cavallari aren't taking part in the new show, which will premiere in 2019.

Van Damme son gets probation term in Arizona knife incident

PHOENIX (AP)—A son of actor Jean-Claude Van Damme has been sentenced to 18 months of probation after pleading guilty to disorderly conduct for holding his roommate at knifepoint at their apartment in suburban Phoenix. Maricopa County Superior Court officials said 22-year-old Nicholas Francois Van Varenberg was sentenced Wednesday. Tempe police said Van Varenberg became upset at his unidentified roommate for answering the door, grabbed a knife and kept his roommate from leaving the apartment. Charges of kidnapping, possession or use of marijuana and possession or use of drug paraphernalia were dismissed when Van Varenberg pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct on Aug. 15. Van Varenberg is the youngest son of Van Damme, known for his martial arts action films of the 1980s and 1990s.

CBS adds Bianna Golodryga to morning news team

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS News is adding Bianna Golodryga (go-low-DREEG-ah) as a fourth anchor to its morning show. The network announced Wednesday that Golodryga will join the team of Gayle King, Norah O'Donnell and John Dickerson at the table on "CBS This Morning." Golodryga is familiar to the show's audience as a frequent substitute host and reporter. She's worked at CBS News since 2017. CBS News President David Rhodes said the move allows the show to "extend its journalistic ambition" and have more flexibility to send its anchors on reporting assignments. It's the second change to CBS' morning team in less than a year. Dickerson replaced Charlie Rose when Rose was fired last November for sexual misconduct.

Mom's wild stories cause her grandchildren distress

DEAR ABBY: My mother insists on telling my three youngest children that my husband is not their father. The oldest girl is the spitting image of him, and she's upset about it. Mom also calls me terrible names. She keeps saying it will add years to my life if I divorce him and makes appointments with divorce lawyers "for" me, which I am charged for. My husband and I have a limited income and can't move away because our jobs are here. How can I convince our kids my husband is their father?

TRYING TO PROVE IT

DEAR TRYING: A way to do that would be to explain to your children that your mother has severe emotional problems and isn't in her right mind when she says those things. (From what you have written, it appears to be true.) You do not have to move away to distance yourself from this toxic, troubled woman. Stop communicating with her. Block her phone number, if you must, and do not allow her to have contact with any members of your family unless and until she regains her senses and apologizes to all of you.

DEAR ABBY: I belong to a women's golfing group. The mission of the club is to play golf and have fun. We have tournaments, prizes, and awards are given for the best scores.

The problem: Several of the ladies are "allergic" to counting their scores correctly. We have given them counting beads to help them "remember" their score. They have played with board members who asked them to count their scores out loud each time they hit the ball and to state their scores after the last putt. There have also been conversations with the golf pro about the importance of keeping accurate scores. Yet, the inaccurate counting persists and denial reigns. Members are upset because these ladies often "win" tournaments. What to do?

PROUD OF MY HIGH HANDICAP

DEAR PROUD: You might be able to curb the cheating if you suggest club members swap scorecards and keep score for each other. However, if that doesn't do the trick, stop playing with those who cheat.

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday, I took my computer to an electronics store to be fixed. The tech who helped me had a ton of dirt under his nails. I was grossed out seeing him with those filthy nails type on my computer keys. Should I have said something to him or his supervisor? How can they allow someone with his hygiene problem to be in a position that requires contact with the public?

GROSSED OUT IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

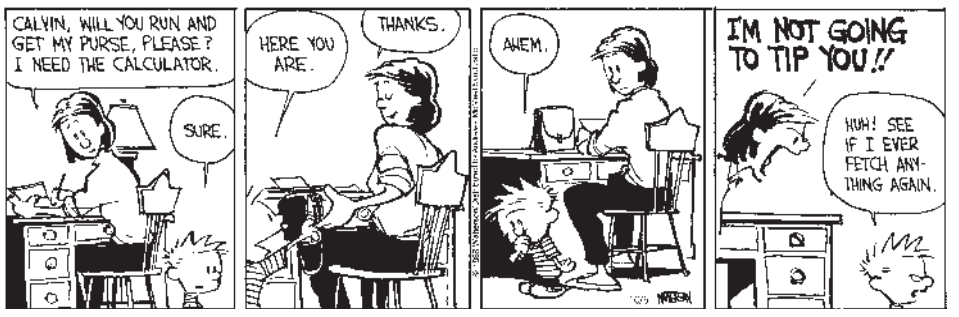
DEAR GROSSED OUT: A quiet word with the supervisor would have been the way to handle it. And while you were at the store, you could have asked for sanitary wipes to clean your keyboard. (They probably had some behind the counter.) Using a soft tissue dipped in alcohol once you returned home would also kill germs, as long as you're careful the tissue isn't so saturated that liquid drips beneath the keys.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

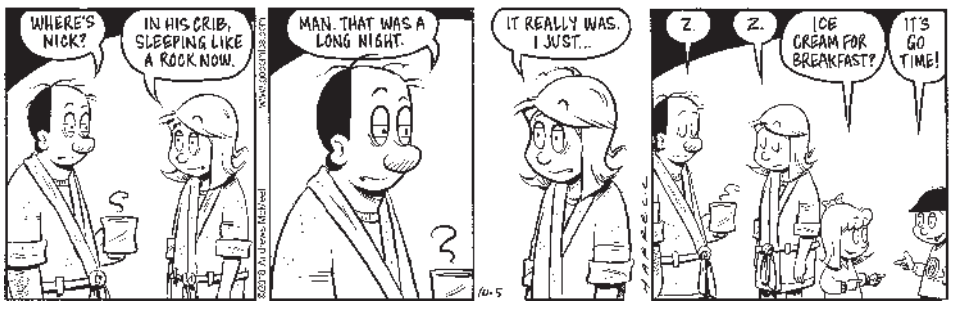

CALVIN, WILL YOU RUN AND GET MY PURSE, PLEASE? I NEED THE CALCULATOR.
SURE.
HERE YOU ARE.
THANKS.
AHEM.
I'M NOT GOING TO TIP YOU!!
HUH! SEE IF I EVER FETCH ANYTHING AGAIN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

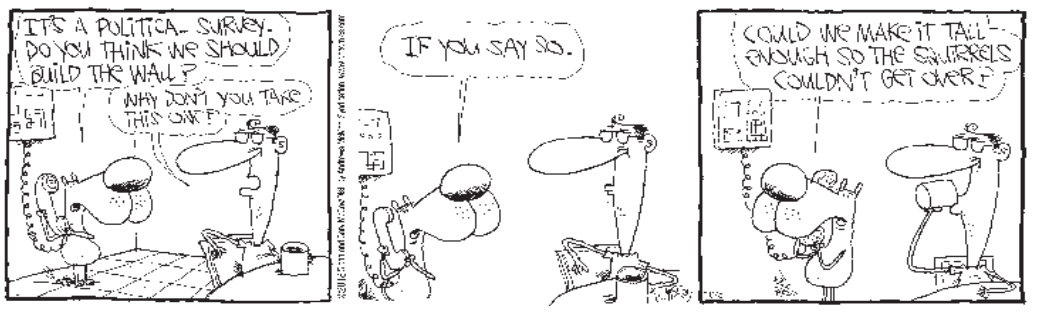
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT'S A POLITICAL SURVEY. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD BUILD THE WALL?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS ONE?
IF YOU SAY SO.
COULD WE MAKE IT TALL ENOUGH SO THE SQUIRRELS COULDN'T GET OVER?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Evening hrs.
4 Actor LaBeouf
8 Like ganders
12 — de cologne
13 Bean curd
14 Tend texts
15 Detour, perhaps
17 Lariat
18 Without a contract
19 Wall climber
21 Somewhat (Suff.)
22 Serenader's song
26 Gators' kin
29 Diner order
30 Flamenco cheer
31 Towel word
32 Average guy
33 Russian council
34 Chemical suffix
35 Fortify
36 Peony part
37 Comment
39 D.C. figure
40 "Homeland" org.
41 Untie
45 Mafia boss
48 Truck stop locale
50 Latin love
51 Work hard
52 Bumped into
53 Sunup
54 First-rate
55 Connections

DOWN

1 Mexican money
2 Primary
3 Bath bubbles
4 Emphasize
5 Moonshine
6 "— tree falls ..."
7 Within earshot
8 Streep of "The Post"
9 Hubbub
10 Sass
11 Tours season
16 Grand stories
20 Cistern
23 Lummox
24 Mater lead-in
25 Transaction
26 Blacken on a grill
27 Painter Magritte
28 Utah city
29 "— voyage!"
32 Capital of Indonesia
33 Apollo's birthplace
35 X-ray's cousin
36 Curly-haired dog
38 Future oak
39 Unadorned
42 — Valley, Calif.
43 Idyllic place
44 Tennis barriers
45 Scoundrel
46 Docs' org.
47 "Wham!"
49 Odometer start

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	O	C	O		A	S	A	P		L	O	P
J	B	E	N		M	I	I	I		O	D	E
S	O	N	G	B		R	D	S		V	O	W
P	E	T	A	R	D			M	Y	E	R	S
			N	O		F	L	O	E	S		
P	I	E	S		M	A	Y		P	O	P	E
A	D	V			U	R	N			N	A	T
T	O	E	S		L	E	X		A	G	R	A
		N		L	E	S		S	T			
P	A	S	T	A			T	O	M	M	I	E
A	M	C		S	O	N	G	B	O	O	K	S
V	O	N		S		R	I		S	T	E	P
E	K	G		O	L	A	F		T	H	A	N

Yesterday's answer 10-5

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
18						■	19	20		■	■	■
■	■	■	21			■	22			23	24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38			■	39			■	■	■
■	■	■	40			■	41			42	43	44
45	46	47		■	48	49						
50				■	51					■	52	
53				■	54					■	55	

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Eisenberg, 35; Scott Weinger, 43; Kate Winslet, 43; Guy Pearce, 51.

Happy Birthday: Explore the future instead of living in the past. Start to purge and evaluate your life and your next move. Change is within reach, but it will take effort on your part to ensure that whatever transpires is what's best for you. Getting rid of the negativity in your life and replacing it with something stabilizing should be your priority. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 27, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make a promise to yourself and stick to it. Set your sights on your goals, and work diligently to stick to your script. Sorting out your differences with someone overbearing will help you gain confidence and composure. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Inconsistency will be what brings you down. Set a path and stick to it. Deal with people diplomatically and you will save yourself from getting into a battle no one can win. Aim for greater equality, security and better relationships. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a break and plan to have some fun. A short trip, visiting someone you find entertaining and knowledgeable or rethinking how to avoid a bad situation with someone who is showing signs of instability will ease stress. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Get involved in something you've never done, or make a point to visit an older relative who can offer information about your family background. Expanding your awareness will open a window of opportunity you didn't know existed. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Someone is likely to overreact; don't let that someone be you. Think before you say something you'll live to regret. Look for the good in everyone as well as in every situation. Positive thoughts will bring the best results. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Getting together with old friends or reuniting with someone you used to have a crush on will be informative. Check out your options and new possibilities and suggest something that encourages a lifestyle change. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Get involved in something that warrants hype, energy and excitement. The people you meet will change the way you view life and the way you want to live as you move forward. Expect to face some opposition. Stand your ground. 4 stars

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep your distance from anyone who tends to overreact or is indulgent or unpredictable. You need stability in your life, not disruption. Consider the changes you can implement that will help you feel less stressed. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You can have fun without overspending. Attend events that give you a sense of satisfaction. Helping others can be gratifying as long as you don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Before you offer help, take care of your responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Obligations can weigh you down. If someone is lazy, make your feelings clear. Don't give anyone a chance to take credit for something you did all on your own. A positive change based on your actions will transpire. Collect your reward. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotions will flare up if you let someone get away with something or you give in to someone's temptations or poor habits. Guard against being used or treated poorly. Stand up for your rights, and protect your assets, passwords and reputation. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make decisions based on facts. Know what's possible and what isn't. There is money to be made and connections that can help you get ahead if you play your cards right. Taking a unique approach to what you do will pay off. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are animated, playful and caring. You are intelligent and convincing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3				9			
9			4		2			
		4		8		7	3	
	7		6		5			
				9				
		6		3		1		
6	5		2		1			
		1		4			7	
		2				5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	8	7	5	3	9	1	6	4
1	5	9	8	6	4	2	7	3
6	3	4	1	7	2	5	8	9
5	9	6	2	8	3	7	4	1
7	1	3	6	4	5	9	2	8
4	2	8	9	1	7	6	3	5
3	6	2	4	5	1	8	9	7
8	4	1	7	9	6	3	5	2
9	7	5	3	2	8	4	1	6

Pit Tality Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOLAR OUTDOOR LIGHTS — Solution: 9 letters

T	K	T	D	I	R	B	Y	H	T	H	G	I	N	D
C	L	S	U	M	M	E	R	N	L	L	A	W	R	N
E	A	O	L	N	L	L	U	M	E	N	A	I	E	S
N	W	P	W	L	O	O	H	C	S	L	V	D	T	G
N	E	A	A	P	M	A	L	P	A	E	R	R	N	G
O	D	E	N	I	H	S	A	L	W	A	E	I	A	D
C	I	T	A	M	O	T	U	A	G	E	K	R	L	R
R	S	A	N	U	H	M	Y	L	T	R	A	D	O	A
E	S	C	R	G	I	N	O	C	A	G	H	S	R	Y
H	B	C	R	N	A	W	G	P	E	C	N	E	F	Ⓚ
T	E	U	U	E	K	Z	A	I	R	E	N	D	Ⓒ	C
A	A	M	L	C	W	N	E	O	S	R	E	Ⓔ	P	A
E	G	L	O	B	E	S	P	B	O	C	Ⓓ	L	E	B
W	I	R	E	L	E	S	S	C	O	R	E	W	O	P
E	K	A	T	S	T	A	I	R	S	O	I	T	A	P

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Alley, Aluminum, Automatic, Backyard, Bulb, Connect, Corner, Dawn, Deck, Decor, Driveway, Fence, Garage, Garden, Gazebo, Globe, Glow, Hybrid, Lamp, Lantern, Lawn, Lumen, Mount, Night, Panel, Parking, Path, Patio, Pole, Porch, Post, Power, Rock, School, Screws, Sensor, Shine, Sidewalk, Sign, Source, Stairs, Stake, Street, Summer, Wall, Weather, Wireless

Yesterday's Answer: Aerosols

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FAX: 9670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of GABRIEL D. DELA CRUZ and ROSA M. DELACRUZ Defendants.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0131

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 27, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot. No. 005 I 5016, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 2, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of September, 2018:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Bring on Boston: Yanks rout A's in wild-card game

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge follows through on a two-run home run against the Oakland Athletics during the first inning of the American League wildcard playoff baseball game, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge got the party started with a two-run homer nine pitches in. By the time Giancarlo Stanton capped the mauling with monstrous drive in his postseason debut, New York Yankees fans already were looking ahead.

"We want Boston!" they chanted.

Coming up next.

"It's going to be intense," CC Sabathia predicted after the Yankees pounded the Oakland Athletics 7-2 on Wednesday night to win their second straight AL wild-card game.

New York will take a train to Boston for a best-of-five Division Series starting Friday night, a matchup of 100-win heavyweights.

"I think they're ready and relish the opportunity to go up against the game's best this year," Yankees rookie manager Aaron Boone said of his players.

Boone remains a dirty word among the Fenway Park faithful. His 11th-inning homer in Game 7 of the 2003 AL Championship Series beat the Red Sox. A year later the Boston overcame the Yankees and became the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason deficit. The Red Sox went on to win their first World Series since 1918, but Boone's drive off Tim Wakefield has not been forgotten or forgiven.

Boston went 10-9 against the Yankees this year and set a club record with 108 wins. New York became the first team since the 2001 A's to reach triple digits in wins and fail to finish first.

"We've just got to do our homework and come out swinging," said Luke Voit, who broke open the game with a two-run triple in a four-run sixth.

Luis Severino atoned for last year's flop in the wild-card game against Minnesota, pitching no-hit shutout ball into the fifth, Dellin Betances entered with two on and got six straight outs as part of a five-hitter and the Yankees extending their home postseason winning streak to seven.

Severino let out a primal scream after escaping a bases-loaded jam in the fourth with a 99.6 fastball—his fastest pitch of the night—to strike out Marcus Semien.

Yankees fans fretted about an all-or-nothing knockout match, thinking back to last year when Severino fell behind Minnesota 3-0 just 10 pitches in. New York rallied for an 8-4 win against the Twins, but the memory remained raw.

Severino retired his first three batters in order on 10 pitches

"I think the first inning was huge for me, after all the stuff that people say on social media, all of that stuff," he explained.

Andrew McCutchen walked leading off the bottom half against reliever-turned starter Liam Hendricks, and Judge hit a drive over the left-field scoreboard, joining Reggie Jackson as the only Yankees with four home runs in their first seven postseason home games.

"I was already excited from the national anthem on," said Judge, who hit his second homer since returning in mid-September after missing seven weeks with a broken right wrist.

Short on options, A's manager Bob Melvin opted for baseball's latest fad: starting a reliever. Hendriks (the loser) had not allowed a home run since June 24, the night before he was cut from the major league roster.

"Got into some bad counts and they made me pay," Hendriks said.

Voit's two-run triple missed a home run by inches. Stanton added a 443-foot drive off closer Blake Treinen in the eighth that landed in left field's second deck, completing a power show by the team that set a major league record for most home runs in a season. Stanton's drive left the bat at 117.4 mph and Judge's 116.1 mph, the hardest-hit postseason home runs since measuring began in 2015.

A sellout crowd enjoyed one of those boisterous Bronx celebrations that used to be an October staple.

"Early in the game they're going to be loud. It's our job to try to take them out of it," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "This is a tough ballpark to play in."

Oakland has lost eight straight winner-take-all postseason games since beating Willie Mays and the New York Mets in Game 7 of the 1973 World Series, and dropped all four of their postseason matchups against the Yankees.

"It's pretty hard but I'm not disappointed at all," said big league home run champion Khris Davis, who hit a two-run homer off Zach Britton in the eighth. "I think we showed some people we can do some things and I think next year, we're a little bit more of a threat."

Severino was 14-2 at the All-Star break this year but slumped badly in the second half, and Boone's decision to start the 24-year-old right-hander against the A's instead of J.A. Happ or Masahiro Tanaka was intensely debated — the type of argument Boone used to enjoy as a television analyst who broadcast last year's wild-card game.

Severino made the move look like genius. He threw nine fastballs in the first inning, then switched to more offspeed. He threw 36 fastballs, 37 sliders and 14 changeups in all.

"Because they're patient and they're dangerous, you've got to be able to mix those pitches and you've got to be able to throw strikes with all those pitches," Boone said.

He struck out seven his first time through the batting order, but wound up walking four as he pitched carefully. Jonathan Lucroy and Nick Martini singled leading off the fifth, and Boone signaled for Dellin Betances to relieve.

This time, Severino had a no-decision to savor.

Betances retired Matt Chapman on a liner to right and Jed Lowrie on a fly to center, then struck out Davis with a slider. Betances gleefully backpedaled off the mound.

"I've been waiting for this moment a long time. Last year I was a cheerleader," Betances said, reflecting on his reduced role last October after late-season control problems.

New York opened a 6-0 lead in the bottom half. Judge started it with a double—his grounder hit about a foot foul just beyond the batter's box, then twisted fair down the line. Aaron Hicks followed with another doubles off Fernando Rodney.

After Treinen walked Stanton, and Voit hit an opposite-field drive to right, thinking it was a home run and raising his right arm at the plate. He chugged into third with his first big league triple and let loose with a holler.

The burly Voit tumbled across the plate, actually making a nifty slide, to just make it home on Didi Gregorius' sacrifice fly.

Dodgers look to Ryu, not Kershaw, to set tone in opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)—These aren't the same Dodgers that won 104 games, ran away in the NL West, and fell one victory short of a World Series title last year.

Example A: After a slow start, they won 92 games and needed Game 163 to earn their sixth straight division title.

Example B: Clayton Kershaw won't be opening the postseason as the Game 1 starter for the first time in six consecutive playoff appearances.

Example C: Kershaw told Hyun-Jin Ryu that the South Korean left-hander was going to take the mound on Thursday night against Mike Foltynewicz and the Atlanta Braves to begin the best-of-five Division Series.

"I'm obviously kind of nervous, but I think it's a good thing," Ryu said through a translator Wednesday.

The Dodgers obviously think flip-flopping Kershaw and Ryu is the right move, with manager Dave Roberts saying it allows both pitchers to have five days' rest between starts. If Kershaw started Game 1, he would be on four days' rest, while Ryu would be on six days' rest.

Kershaw starting the opener has always been the surest sign that it's October. The face of the franchise has started eight of the past 10 postseason Game 1s. He can opt out of his contract after the World Series.

"He obviously wanted to pitch Game 1 and expected to," Roberts said. "But after talking to him and explaining our thoughts, he accepted it and he just said he'll be ready to go for the second game."

Kershaw often has started on short rest in recent postseasons, but the Dodgers don't plan on that this time. Rookie Walker Buehler is set to go in Game 3, having impressed enough to be the heir apparent to Kershaw.

"It doesn't have to all fall on his shoulders like it has in the past," starter-turned-reliever Alex Wood said of Kershaw.

Slugger Matt Kemp added, "We got a lot of guys who can get the job done."

Ryu is eager to make a mark after not pitching in the postseason since 2014, having been injured for most of the 2015 and '16 seasons. He was left off last year's playoff rosters after going 5-9 with a 3.77 ERA.

Still, Ryu has posted a better ERA (2.81) in his three career postseason games than Kershaw (4.35) in his 24 playoff games.

"Finding out that I made the postseason roster, especially not making it last year, was definitely huge for me," he said. "I'm going to go full throttle from the very first pitch in the very first inning."

Ryu was 7-3 with a 1.97 ERA in the regular season. Fellow lefty Kershaw was 9-5 with a 2.73 ERA and team-high 155 strikeouts.

Giannis, Bucks cruise in new arena's opener

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks put on a smashing opening-night performance at their new arena.

Antetokounmpo had 19 points, 13 rebounds and five assists, and the Bucks routed the Chicago Bulls 116-82 on Wednesday night in the first game at the Fiserv Forum.

The Bucks had the look of contenders under new coach Mike Budenholzer, scoring 63 points in the first half of their preseason opener and leading by as much as 34 points.

Their new arena opened in August and the Bucks looked right at home there against the Bulls, overwhelming them on the backboards with a 64-43 rebound advantage.

Bobby Portis led Chicago with 17 points and Kris Dunn added 10.

Eric Bledsoe added 16 points, Khris Middleton scored 15 and Pat Connaughton had 12 points on four 3-pointers. First-rounder Donte DiVincenzo scored just two points on 1-of-9 shooting but grabbed seven boards in 19 minutes. Budenholzer spent the last five seasons as Atlanta coach.

Jabari Parker was 1 of 12 from the field and scored two points in his return to Milwaukee, where the Bucks' former No. 2 pick played his first four seasons. No. 7 pick Wendell Carter Jr. had nine points on 4-of-8 shooting.

The Bucks (1-0) play Minnesota at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa, on Sunday. The Bulls (1-1) visit Charlotte on Monday.

Pistons 97, Thunder 91

Andre Drummond had 31 points and 16 rebounds, and scored the go-ahead points on a three-point play that gave visiting Detroit a 94-91 lead with 1:37 left. Ish Smith's 3-pointer with 17 seconds left capped the scoring.

Stanley Johnson scored 10 of his 14 points in the first half for the Pistons.

Dennis Schroder had 21 points and nine assists and Steven Adams added 17 points and 12 boards for Oklahoma City.

Blake Griffin did not play. Glen Robinson III had 11 points, and Reggie Bullock and Zaza Pachulia scored 10 each. Dwane Casey made his debut as the Pistons' head coach after seven seasons in Toronto, including a 59-win campaign in 2017-18.

Russell Westbrook and Paul George did not play. Raymond Felton had 12 points on 5-of-14 shooting in 19 minutes.

The Pistons (1-0) travel to San Antonio on Thursday. The Thunder (0-1) visit Minnesota on Friday.

Knicks 107, Nets 102

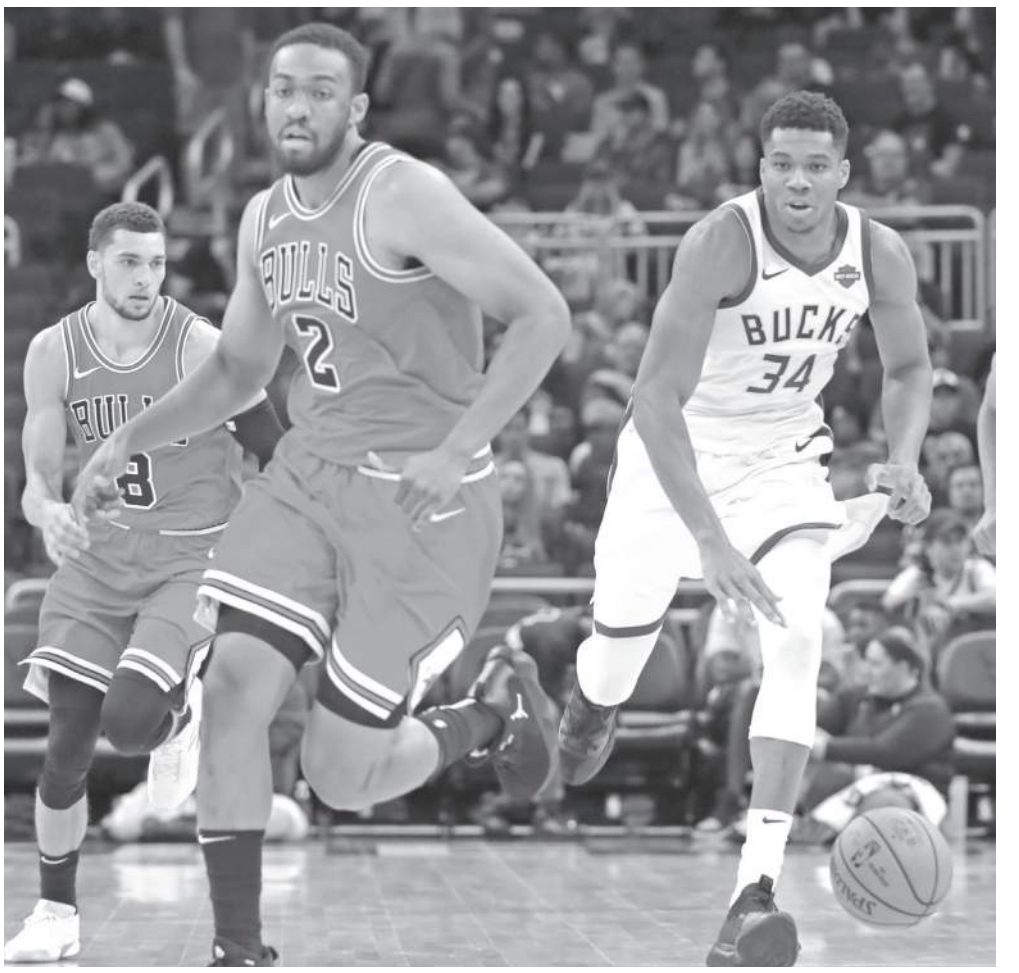
Rookie Allonzo Trier scored 25 points, Enes Kanter had 22 points and 20 rebounds, and the Knicks took the first of two preseason meetings between the city rivals.

Caris LeVert scored 15 points for the Nets in their preseason opener.

The teams meet again at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 12 on the final night of preseason play.

New York closed the first half with a 24-6 burst, turning a 40-26 deficit into a 50-46 lead. Rookie Mitchell Robinson limped to the locker room early in the fourth quarter with an apparent ankle injury. Veteran Courtney Lee missed his second straight game with a strained neck.

Spencer Dinwiddie and rookie Rodions Kurucs each scored 13 points. D'Angelo Russell had 11 points but shot just 4 for 12. ... The Nets were 8 for 41 (19.5 percent) from 3-point range. DeMarre Carroll missed all four of his attempts in an overall 0-for-5, scoreless performance. Brooklyn was without veteran forward Rondae Hollis-Jefferson (left abductor strain) and newcomers Shabazz Napier (strained right hamstring) and Kenneth Faried (sore left ankle).



AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo and Chicago Bulls' Jabari Parker chase the ball during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018, in Milwaukee.

US, Canada embark on World Cup qualifying

NEW YORK (A)—Crystal Dunn is pragmatic about her shifting roles: Whatever helps get the U.S. women's national team to next year's World Cup in France is fine with her.

Dunn plays midfielder for the North Carolina Courage, which just won the National Women's Soccer League championship after a record-breaking season. On Thursday, she moves to defense when the national team opens the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying tournament with a match against Mexico in Cary, North Carolina.

"I'm playing the outside back role now on the national team, and it's not an easy position. It's not like I get a ton of practice there, as well, during the season," she said. "So first day of camps are always interesting because I'm always like, 'Let me get my footing right, where should I be? Talk to me.' But it's like riding a bike, you don't really forget how to play."

The United States is the defending World Cup champion, having won the title in 2015 with a dramatic 5-2 victory over Japan. The team is in Group A for the CONCACAF Women's Championship, which decides the region's three spots in the World Cup next year in France. A fourth team will earn the right to a playoff against Argentina for a spot.

Trinidad and Tobago and Panama round out Group A in Cary. Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba and Jamaica are in Group B, which plays its matches in Edinburg in the southern tip of Texas.

The semifinals and finals will be played in Frisco, Texas, outside of Dallas, at Toyota Stadium.

The United States, ranked No. 1 in the word, heads into the tournament on a roll, undefeated in its last 21 matches dating back to a 1-0 loss to Australia in the 2017 Tournament of Nations. So far this year, the team is 11-0-2.

"We've been coming in form and definitely the chemistry has been a lot better the last couple of months," Dunn said. "I just think we're going to build on that and every game we're getting better and I just feel the environment changing."

Dunn, 26, has motivation going into qualifying. Heading into the World Cup in Canada, she was one of the last players cut.

Since then she's become a national team vet and she now has 69 caps with 23 goals. Her versatility is valued by coach Jill Ellis, who has at times moved her up to a more attacking role late in games when subs are made. The backline for the U.S. team during qualifying will likely include Dunn, Becky Sauerbrunn, Abby Dahlkemper and Kelley O'Hara.

Easy victories for PEGS, PIC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan and PEGS cruised past their respective foes in the

IT&E Emon Masonic Lodge No. 179 Mixed Masters Brotherhood Basketball League last Wednesday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

PIC Saipan notched its second win in three games after routing Cellular Pro in the first game, 98-78, while PEGS also get victory No. 2 following an 84-69 triumph over Pacific Postal Plus in the nightcap. Both PEGS and PIC Saipan managed to post a double-digit winning margin after breaking away in the third period.

Up by only 5 points at the break, 50-45, PIC Saipan built a 80-68 advantage at the start of the third canto, thanks to the 13 points of Paulo Rafols and the combined contribution of Sean Rabasto, James Abuy, and Jerome Norita.

Rafols then made PIC's first 3 markers in the final canto, while his teammates Butch Sublemente and Rommel Bartolo finished off Cellular Pro. Sublemente scored 7 straight points after Rafols had his and-1 play, while Bartolo also hit baskets in streaks, registering 6 markers.

Again, Cellular Pro leaned heavily on Prince Factor, who recorded 22 points and these were not enough to put the team on the win column after three tries.

In the second game, PEGS made it two in a row, as it pulled away from Pacific Postal Plus in the penultimate frame.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Sean Rabasto goes up for an uncontested layup during the second quarter of their game against Islander Rent A Car in the IT&E Emon Lodge caging last Monday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Ahead by only 8 after the first half, 41-33, Ron Gamboa and Dennis Geron teamed up for 20 of their 26 points in the third period, which ended with PEGS on top by 16, 67-51. Geron scored 9 points in that surge with all his baskets coming from the 3-point area, while Gamboa drilled 11, including the 7 straight to wrap up the pivotal quarter.

Geron was still at it in the final canto, adding 12 points, while the rest of his teammates also stepped up to complete the rout.

Meanwhile, it was Kensington Hotel that won last Monday's first game not Armatech as earlier reported.

Over 140 join Bike & Run for Cure

Triathlon Association in the CNMI along with the Commonwealth Cancer Association hosted the 3rd Bike & Run for Cure with more than 140 participating in last Saturday's event that aimed at promoting Prostate & Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Seventy bikers joined the 30-kilometer MTB race from the American Memorial Park to Banzai Cliff and back, while 72 negotiated the 5-kilometer uphill run course at the Gov. Ely S. Inos Memorial Peace Park.

Joel Buco was the top finisher in the MTB race, while JC Libut and Willie Barbo rounded out the Top 3 in the men's field. In the women's division, youth rider JC Ferrer made it to the AMP first, while Emily Northrop and Heather Brook-Taylor came in at second and third, respectively

TRAC and the Commonwealth Cancer Association would like to thank the following for supporting last Saturday's event: Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam and CNMI, CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, IT&E, Gatorade, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, American Memorial Park, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Pre-Hell Race Series 2

Meanwhile, riders returned to the road the following day after joining Bike & Run for Cure to compete in the Pre-Hell Race Series 2.

Familiar names figured in the Top 3 of the various categories with Libut leading the finishers of the nearly 28K race. Libut clocked in at 54:43 to nose out Buco (54:44), while Cesar Fortaleza completed the Top 3 in the men's division. In the women's Northtop posted 55:49 to beat Ferrer (56:28) and Taylor (58:22).

In the 40 and below age group, Roy Dalangye (55:44) was ranked first and followed by Ernie Henzon (55:48) and Shie Meng Huan (59:02). Nap Dizon ruled the 41 to 49 category after checking in at 55:24, while Ariel Garcia (55:57) and Bob Ferrer (57:08) joined him in the Top 3.

The other podium finishers in last Sunday's race were 50 to 54's Rolly Quihon (58:49), Derek Chambers (1:00:46) and Nomer Mangalinao (1:01:56) and 55 and above's Norlo Jacosalem (56:25), Willy Barbo (58:20) and Phil Guiang (58:21).

The race, which aimed at preparing bikers for the Hell of Marianas, brought participants to Mariana Resort (start and finish line), Mobil Tanapag, Bird island Lookout, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

MATANSA

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his first in the fifth minute and the second in the 27th.

In other results last weekend, MP United and TanHoldings are tied for the early lead in the boys U18 division.

MP United outclassed Matansa last Saturday, 3-1, for a 2-0-0 record. MP United got one goal each from Anthony Fruit and Oliver Lee, who scored in the 74th and 76th minute, respectively. MP United was earlier credited with an own goal in the 68th minute, while David Mafnas gave Matansa its only goal in the game when he found his target in the 77th minute.

TanHoldings duplicated MP United's 2-0-0 record after edging Kanoa, 2-1.

Mark Esalan hit the dagger for TanHoldings with about a minute left in the close match. He also posted the winning squad's first goal in the fourth minute, while Andruw Omelau put Kanoa on the board in the 49th minute.

Meanwhile, there will be no games in the boys U18 and U15 and co-ed U13A divisions tomorrow, as Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is preparing for the Marianas Cup that will take place this Sunday at the training center. Only the girls U16 squads will play this Saturday and matches will be held at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

COME

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this week.

"Everyone is doing its part to make sure that we have a successful Marianas Cup," said Zapanta, adding that they have also invited government officials and business leaders to this weekend's event, while an East Asian Football Confederation official will also come to the island to witness the historic games on Saipan's first soccer facility.

Commemorative shirts were printed for the event and NMIFA is calling spectators to wear them when they go to the Koblerville pitch to show support to the two CNMI national teams.

Fostering football development

Guam is bringing in 36 players (18 each in the men's U17 and women's U19) to Saipan for the Marianas Cup, which Guam Football Association said fosters the development of football in the region.

"Both teams have been preparing for various upcoming competitions, which includes the Marianas Cup this weekend. The Marianas Cup is of historical significance to both the Guam FA and the NMI FA. The tournament was established to create a consistent competition between teams from Guam and the NMI, and although the format and the teams playing may have changed over the years, the tournament continues to foster the development of football in the Marianas region," GFA technical director Belinda Wilson.

She added that the tournament will also help them practice the new playing style of Guam's youth teams.

"For this particular tournament, the main objectives for the teams from Guam are to continue to implement Guam's new playing style with the U17 and U19 squads training for upcoming AFC tournaments and Guam's culture, values, and expectations on the pitch and use the tournament as an additional platform to improve Guam's current operating processes. If all these objectives are achieved, Guam's teams will be successful.

RACE

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Northern Marianas Athletics official Robin Sapong, who works in one of the hotels with pools here, explained it would take just less than a month for harmful organism and bacteria to form and contaminate the water in the pool.

Hirsh, on the other hand, feared that if the water is contaminated due to the prolonged closure, the pool needs to be drained, which hasn't been done in the last 20-plus years. Sapong was then quick to point out that draining the entire pool will cause the floor to crack so with their experience they do the draining by batches.

Weightlifting federation head John Davis added that no swimmers or their parents will take the risk of getting back into the pool if it hasn't been taken cared off in a while for fear of contracting diseases.

Confronted with these problems, NMSA president Michael White said the closure is a race against time.

Volleyball head Laurie Peterka asked if NMSA or NMISF could come forward to take care of the pool, but White said the group could only help in providing manpower to watch the facility, not the cost to operate it. Power cost for the maintenance and management of the Olympic-sized pool is around $4,000 a month.

Kan Pacific shut down the pool and other facilities in Marpi under its care after its lease extension agreement with the Department of Public Lands expired last Sept. 30. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LCC was given the green light last week to take over the management of the Marpi property, but there's no definite date yet when will it start running the facilities. DPL and IPI are scheduled to meet today to discuss issues surrounding the facilities.

Meanwhile, Hirsh added that NMISF officials and swimmers turned in the petition to keep the pool open to the office of Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog through his chief of staff Oliver Gonzales yesterday afternoon. The petition was signed by over 14,000.

2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A Marianas High School player rushes down the net for a return to Kagman High School during their game in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

A Saipan Southern High School player bends to receive a serve from Saipan International School.

Grace Christian Academy's Sunny Woo, right, attempts to block a shot from a Mt. Carmel School player.

Saipan Southern High School's Cassandra Camacho makes a return from the backline.

Grace Christian Academy's Anna Nunez receives a strong serve from Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Hahn.

Grace Christian Academy coach Cesar Libut gives instructions to his players during timeout.

Mt. Carmel School's Dayna Macaranas tosses the ball.

Mt. Carmel School's Louisa Hahn goes up for a spike.

Bring on Boston: Yanks rout A's in wild-card game

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Sports

Giannis, Bucks cruise in new arena's opener

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Come out and watch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association has this open invitation to the community, as it hosts the 2018 Marianas Cup that will feature two matches between the CNMI and Guam this Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

"Come and join us, as we watch our squads—the CNMI men's U17 and women's U19 national teams—play against Guam. We are excited to host this year's Marianas Cup and it will be great if we could have the members of our community support our teams as they play in our new pitch for the first time (official match) against Guam," NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said.

Game time is at 4pm for the women's U19 and 7pm for the men's. U17 Before each match, members from the opposing squads will be escorted by young players on their way out to the main pitch. These youth are selected from the various football clubs on Saipan and had a dry run of the opening ceremony early

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
The CNMI's Sebastien Manabat, left, collides with a Guam player who leaps for a header during their game in the 2017 Marianas Cup at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

Race against time

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The once well-maintained Kan Pacific Swimming Pool may suffer significant damage as power at the facility is scheduled for a shutdown on Oct. 9.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Once the power at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool is turned off next week, members of the sports community are worried of the damage that the closure will bring to the facility and the people using it.

"We were told by Kan Pacific management that they will be turning the power off on Oct. 9 and we don't know what will happen next," Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh said last night during the Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 50-meter pool closed to the public last Sept. 30, but pumps are still running. However, NMISF does not know if water treatment is still being done considering it's been almost a week since Kan Pacific shut the facility down. If the pumps stop running and chemicals are not used to treat the water, it will cost significant damage to the pool and the swimmers.

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Matansa moves on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club jumped to the No. 1 rankings in the team standings in the boys U15 division of the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League after easing past Shirley's Football Club, 6-1, last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club and Shirley's FC players exchange high-fives after their U11 game at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Lolobeyong Benito towed Matansa to the lopsided win after making three goals. His goal in the 11th minute kicked things off for Matansa and he completed the hat trick in the second half after scoring in the 46th and 56th minute.

Razeff Altamirano added two goals for Matansa with his first one recorded in the 52nd minute and the last in the 60th. Romel Mendoza also hit the board in the second half (50th minute) to hand Matansa a 2-1-0 win-draw loss record for the top spot in the standings of the five-team field. Shirley's, which drew its lone goal from Josh Joson in the second half, fell to a 0-0-2 slate and is at the cellar behind MP United (1-1-1), TanHoldings (1-0-1), and Kanoa (1-0-1).

In the other U15 division match last Friday, Kanoa notched its first win this season after beating MP United, 2-0.

Ian Maniago canned the pair of goals for Kanoa, registering

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